BEST I'VE FACED! GEORGE FOREMAN REVEALS HIS TOUGHEST OPPONENTS

THE BIBLE OF BOXING

The RING

SERGEY KOVALEV

ADONIS STEVENSON

HAPPY NEW YEAR?

THE RING MAKES ITS PREDICTIONS FOR 2014

DEONTAY WILDER

MANNY VS. MONEY?

PACQUIAO'S VICTORY OVER RIOS RESURRECTS BOXING'S BIGGEST QUESTION

VITALI KLITSCHKO

UKRAINIAN PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE IS ENTERING A ROUGH ARENA

BERMANE STIVERNE

CANADIAN HEAVYWEIGHT CONTENDER MUST WAIT TO LEARN HIS FATE

02
0 72246 00396 1
$8.95

BOXING

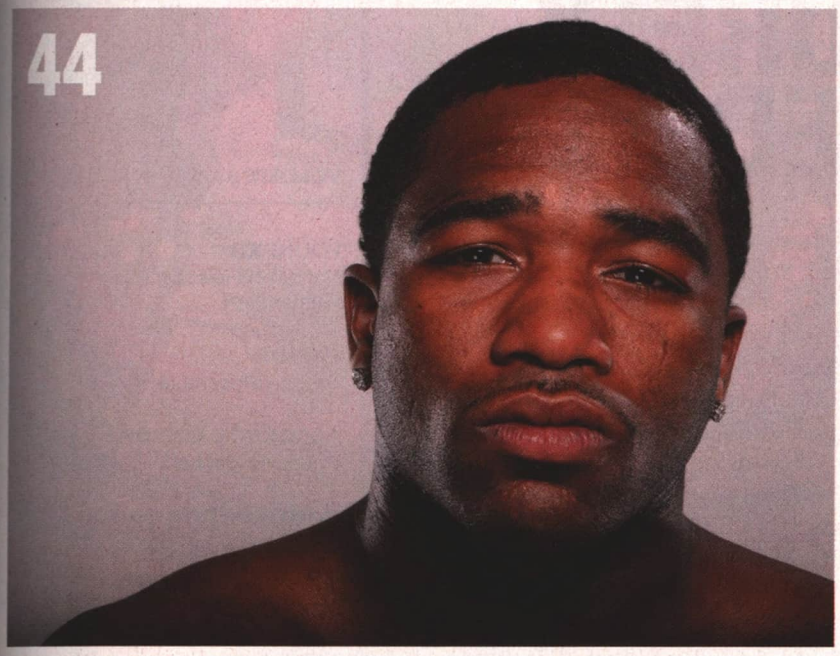
THE NEW LIGHTWEIGHT CHAMP HAS ARRIVED

AVAILABLE AT WWW.ATHLETEPS.COM

aps

ATHLETE PERFORMANCE SOLUTIONS, LLC

FEATURES



COVER STORY

38 A BIG YEAR
THE SPORT THRIVED IN 2013 IN PART BECAUSE OF YOUNG STARS
By Gareth A Davies

44 YOU READ IT HERE
10 THINGS TO EXPECT IN THE SPORT – AND 10 NOT TO – IN 2014
By David Greisman

50 WISH LIST
RING WRITERS REVEAL THE FIGHTS THEY DO AND DON'T WANT TO SEE

52 STILL HOPE?
MANY OBSTACLES STAND IN THE WAY OF PACQUIAO VS. MAYWEATHER
By Bernard Fernandez

56 PRESIDENT KLITSCHKO?
VITALI KLITSCHKO FACES A TOUGH FIGHT IN UKRAINIAN POLITICS
By Robert G. Rodriguez, Ph.D.

62 U.S. PRESIDENTS AND BOXING
A NUMBER OF CHIEF EXECS HAVE BEEN TOUCHED BY THE SWEET SCIENCE
By Robert G. Rodriguez, Ph.D.

64 WAITING GAME
BERMANE STIVERNE IS DUE A SHOT AT VITALI KLITSCHKO BUT REMAINS IDLE
By Ron Borges

70 CONFIDENT FIGHTER
SLUGGER KEITH THURMAN DRAWS STRENGTH FROM HIS LATE TRAINER
By Keith Idec

SPECIAL PACKAGE: DOUBLE TRAGEDY

76 FRANCISCO LEAL: 1986-2013
SHOULD LEAL HAVE BEEN ALLOWED TO FIGHT AFTER A PREVIOUS BRAIN INJURY?
By Bart Barry

81 MAGOMED ABDUSALAMOV
RUSSIAN HEAVYWEIGHT SHOULD'VE BEEN SAVED FROM TAKING A BEATING
By Gordon Marino

84 A DIFFERENT PATH
RYOTA MURATA OF JAPAN MUST FIGHT ABROAD BECAUSE OF HIS SIZE
By Norm Frauenheim

DEPARTMENTS

4 RINGSIDE
5 OPENING SHOTS
10 COME OUT WRITING

13 ROLL WITH THE PUNCHES
Jabs and Straight Writes
by Thomas Hauser

18 BEST I'VE FACED: GEORGE FOREMAN
By Anson Wainwright

21 RING CARD GIRL

25 READY TO GRUMBLE
By David Greisman

28 OUTSIDE THE ROPES
By Brian Harty

30 RING RATINGS PACKAGE

90 LETTERS FROM EUROPE
By Gareth A Davies

95 SWEET SCIENCE
By Scott LaFee

98 NEW FACES: KHALID YAFAI
By Mike Coppinger

100 WOMEN'S BOXING
By Thomas Gerbasi

103 RINGSIDE REPORTS
By Norm Frauenheim

108 WORLDWIDE RESULTS
110 COMING UP
112 FROM THE ARCHIVE
114 AT THE FIGHTS

AT RINGTV.COM

Q&A: GEORGE GROVES
THE BRITISH FIGHTER SAYS CARL FROCH HAS TWO CHOICES, FIGHT HIM AGAIN OR RETIRE.
GO TO: http://bit.ly/196TKs8 or scan the QR Code.

'UNDISPUTED TRUTH'
MIKE TYSON'S NEW AUTOBIOGRAPHY IS A GRAPHIC LOOK AT THE FIGHTER'S LIFE.
GO TO: http://bit.ly/1cgmNhx or scan the QR Code.

DON'T FORGET TO FOLLOW US ON: WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/RINGTV @RINGMAGAZINE YouTube THERINGDIGITAL

COVER PHOTO BY WILDER: ANDREW YATES AFP GETTY; KOVALEV: SCOTT HEAVEY-GETTY; STEVENSON- RICHARD WOLOWICZ GETTY

PREMATURELY DISMISSED

Sometimes we're very quick to write off a fighter as faded or even shot, including ones who only recently ruled the sport.

Manny Pacquiao is an example. The Filipino icon was perceived as one of the two or three best fighters in the world as recently as 2012, when he was still in the midst of a career-defining winning streak that began in 2005.

Then, after consecutive losses to Timothy Bradley and rival Juan Manuel Marquez, he became a virtual has-been. The hand and foot speed had diminished, the critics said. He could no longer throw as many punches as he once could. He was easier to hit.

And, of course, there was reason to feel that way. Great fighters don't lose fights. And Pacquiao lost two in a row.

Let's look at those fights, though. Pacquiao might not have been at his best against Bradley – something was missing – but almost everyone believes he won convincingly in spite of the judges, who gave Bradley a split-decision victory. That's saying something given Bradley's perfect record and unquestioned ability.

In his fourth fight against Marquez, Pacquiao fought with a purpose and ferocity he hadn't demonstrated in recent fights. He took his licks but appeared to have Marquez in trouble when one shot from the Mexican changed everything in the sixth round.

Once-Great Manny Pacquiao instantly became the Once-great Manny Pacquiao, as he tumbled down everyone's pound-for-pound lists.

That brings us to Pacquiao's fight against Brandon Rios on Nov. 23 in Macau, China. Pacquiao was never destined to reclaim his pound-for-pound supremacy with a victory over Rios, a tough, but predictable brawler.

At the same time, many believed the fight would provide a reasonable gauge as to how much Pacquiao had slipped. The conclusion? The Pacquiao we saw on Nov. 23 looked a lot like the Pacquiao who won titles in a record eight divisions – quick, active, passionate, dominating.

Again, Rios doesn't have the athletic ability to compete with Pacquiao, but he's extremely durable and relentless, the type of fighter who would give almost anyone some degree of trouble.

Which is the point here: Pacquiao, even at 34 and with many miles on his odometer, isn't anyone. He might be a tad slower than he once was and perhaps a bit less dynamic, but he is still better than almost anyone else.

As one knowledgeable observer aptly put it: "Hey, (Floyd) Mayweather couldn't have beaten Rios any more thoroughly than Pacquiao did." RING

The RING

VOLUME 93, NO. 2 | FEBRUARY 201

FOUNDER
Nathaniel Fleischer
(1888-1972)

EDITOR
Michael Rosenthal

ASSOCIATE EDITOR
Douglass Fischer

CONTRIBUTING EDITOR
Brian Harty

ART DIRECTOR
Lamar Clark

RING CARD GIRLS COORDINATOR
Heather Shanholtz

CONTROLLER
Deborah L. Harrison

CIRCULATION DIRECTOR
Kenneth J. Gudaitis

ADVERTISING INQUIRIES
Robert Gasparri
213-233-2952
sepub@sepublications.com

SUBSCRIPTION INQUIRIES
SPORTS AND ENTERTAINMENT PUBLICATIONS
P.O. BOX 433122
Palm Coast, FL 32164-3122
1-800-846-6438
thering@emailcustomerservice.com

BACK ISSUES
215-643-3087 OR ONLINE AT RINGTV.COM

DIGITAL EDITION INQUIRIES
support@imirus.com

SEND EDITORIAL COMMENTS TO:
comeoutwriting@sepublications.com
or P.O. BOX 251753,
Los Angeles CA, 90025

THE RING (ISSN: 0035-5410), Vol. 93, NO. 2 (FEBRUARY 2014), is published monthly by Sports and Entertainment Publications, LLC, PO Box 90254 Brooklyn, NY 11209. Periodicals postage paid at Brooklyn, NY 1120 and additional post offices. Postmasters: Send change of address notices to: THE RING, P.O. Box 433122, Palm Coast, FL 32164-3122. Single copy price $8.95 in U.S. and Canada (£4.95 in the UK). Subscription pric $58.70 in the U.S., $127.10 in Canada and Mexico, $143.70 in remaining countries. Not responsible for the loss or non-return of unsolicited articles or photographs, which will not be returned unless accompanied by self-addressed envelope bearing the proper amount of postage. The entire contents of this magazine are copyright ©2013 Sports and Entertainment Publications, LLC. No part of this magazine may be reproduced witho the written permission of the publisher. All rights reserved. Publisher is not responsible for the accuracy of the content of advertisements appearing in this magazine, nor the delivery or quality of merchandise or service offered. No endorsement of any such advertisement is intended or implied. Advertisers and agencies assume liability for claims arising from the content of their advertisements. FOR ADVERTISING INQUIRES AND RATES (213) 233-2952. U.S. and Canadian distribution by Kable Distribution Services Inc., 14 Wall Street, Suite 4C, New York, NY 10022. International distribution by Worldwide Media Service Inc., 115 East 23rd St., New Yor NY 10010, UK distribution by Comag Tavistock Rd., West Drayton, Middlesex UB77QE, England. Printed in U.S.A.

Manny Pacquiao's one-sided decision over Brandon Rios was his first victory since 2011 and gave his countrymen, reeling from a typhoon, something to cheer about.

Andre Ward (right) picked up where he left off before his shoulder surgery, easily outpointing Edwin Rodriguez to retain his RING super middleweight title.

COME OUT WRITING

PACQUIAO vs. RIOS

A TRUE HERO

I have just returned from the festivities in Macau, where I was lucky enough to witness Pacman's return to form. The atmosphere in the stadium was unreal! I've attended a few world class sporting events, including the Olympics in Sydney. However, I haven't experienced anything that compares to the atmosphere in Cotai Stadium once Manny made his entrance. It might be hard for a lot of people to understand just how much of a national hero and icon Pacquiao is to the Filipino people. He isn't adored by them just because of his wealth and fame. He's adored because his success (as both a politician and a boxer) represents hope, change and a reversal of a country that lives largely in poverty. In their time of need, after the recent devastating typhoon, he was able to bounce back from a career threatening defeat and notch arguably one of the most important victories in his career. At the same time, he inspired an entire nation to emerge from a horrific natural disaster and find the strength to push forward.

Craig Brewer
Singapore

PREDICTABLE

I was more than bemused by the chorus of accolades for Miguel Cotto after his recent demolition of Delvin Rodriguez. I feel that the same can be said of Manny Pacquiao's performance versus Brandon Rios on Nov. 23. Anyone with the dimmest memories of Pacman vs. Antonio Margarito would have foreseen what the outcome was going to be. In fact, at one stage in the fight, I thought Freddie Roach with a body pad would have been more competitive than the Mexican-American. If the boxing community really wants to know whether Pacquiao or Cotto is back, I believe they should just fight each other again.

Brian Han
Sydney

PACQUIAO SHOT?

I honestly think Pacman is a shot fighter. He looked good, though much more cautious than usual against Rios. But when he steps inside the ring with fighters who are just as fast and experienced as him – the ones who will give him angles and counters like Juan Manuel Marquez – he's in trouble.

Jerry Nicolas

DISGUSTED

I love what Manny Paquiao said during his post fight interview: "We are not here to kill each other." I love boxing, but I'm extremely saddened by all the boxers who have gotten hurt in the past month. I'm also very disappointed with these bloodthirsty announcers who keep calling for boxers to try to kill each other in the ring and then offer their "sympathy" the following weekend after one boxer ends up on life support or in a coma. I'm disgusted with these shameless hypocrites.

Ray Mack
Brooklyn, N.Y.

TIME IS NOW

It's time for Manny Pacquiao to fight Floyd Mayweather Jr. This is getting ridiculous, where the best don't fight the best. If the UFC does it really easily, why can't boxing? For Floyd, money at this point shouldn't be the argument as he has plenty. Boxing fans like myself are waiting for this and everyone who says this argument is dead is wrong.

Maynor Garrido
Chicago

GOLOVKIN vs. WARD?

I think that it's premature to start drumming for Gennady Golovkin vs. Andre Ward. The fights everyone shoul be clamoring for are Golovkin vs. Serg Martinez at middleweight and Ward vs Adonis Stevenson at light heavyweight. After all, Ward has thoroughly cleaned out the super middleweight division. I think it's time he move up to light heavyweight rather than stick around t wait for guys to move up and fight him Let Ward move up, and Golovkin can try to do at 160 pounds what Ward ha so successfully done at 168.

John Sylvest
Seatt

MAYWEATHER DOESN'T BELONG

I only have one problem with the articl "The Greatest Modern Welterweight?" (November 2013): Pretty Boy Floyd does not belong with the great 15-roun champions listed. Marvin Hagler, Sugar Ray Robinson and Aaron Pryor would without a doubt have caught up with Floyd by the 13th-15th rounds. In those championship rounds everyone was forced to fight. They were called "no man's land." In my opinion, the only reason Marvin Hagler didn't win the Ray Leonard fight was due to the 12-round pre-condition for the fight. The 12-round championship fight is one of the downfalls of boxing, along with the corruption. The case for Manny Pacquiao is better, for the simpl reason that he is an old school type of fighter who will stand toe to toe and let the chips fall where they may, like Thomas Hearns. As Eric "Butterbean" Esch was the king of the three-rounder, "Money" Mayweather is the king of th 12-rounder.

Rick Hens
Pahoa, Hawa

WRITE TO THE RING!

Come Out Writing, The Ring, P.O. Box 251753, Los Angeles, CA 90025
comeoutwriting@sepublications.com
Emailed letters will include a writer's email address unless a city and state of origin is provided. Letters may be edited for reasons of space and clarity.

LOS GUANTES DE LOS CAMPEONES

Ph. (619) 863 4557

store.cletoreyes.com

ANAHEIM STORE
1808 N National Street
Anaheim, CA 92801

www.cletoreyes.com

SAN DIEGO STORE
2625 Imperial Ave,
San Diego, CA 92102

CLETO REYES
HECHO EN MEXICO

THIS CHRISTMAS AND THANKSGIVING JUST THE BEST

Hand Made

/cletoreyesusa

/cletoreyesteam

look for our authorized dealer

ebay cletoreyesboxingequipment

/Cleto Reyes USA

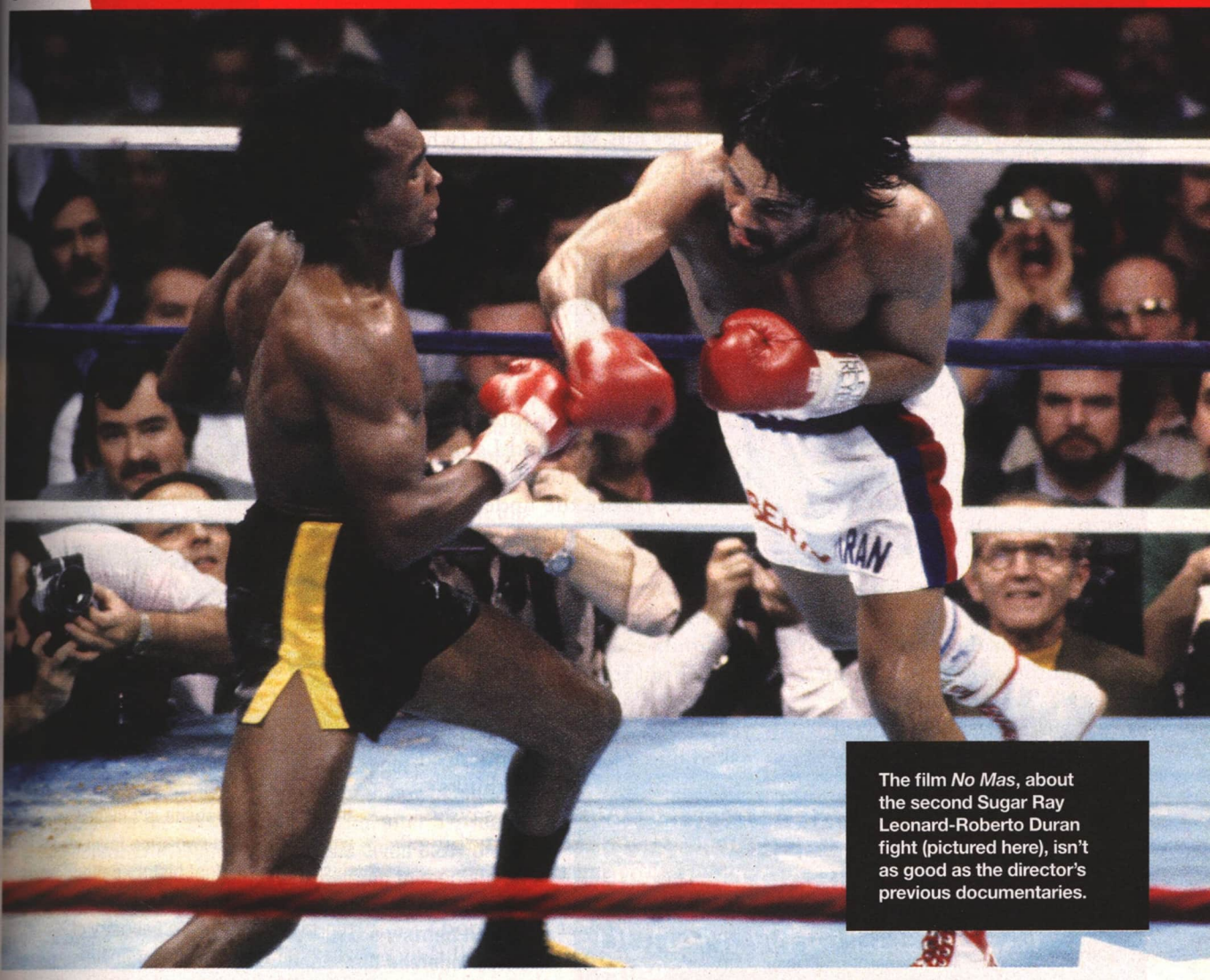
Corona Extra

BOXING

ACHIEVING GREATNESS *takes* SOMETHING EXTRA.

PROUD SPONSOR OF GOLDEN BOY

Imported by Crown Imports LLC. Chicago, IL 60603. Relax



The film *No Mas*, about the second Sugar Ray Leonard-Roberto Duran fight (pictured here), isn't as good as the director's previous documentaries.

LEONARD-DURAN FILM NEEDED *MAS*

JABS & STRAIGHT **WRITES**

BY THOMAS HAUSER

Eric Drath is a fine filmmaker. His credits include *Cornered: A Life Caught in the Ring* (a 2008 documentary about the fight between Billy Collins and Luis Resto, which became infamous because of trainer Panama Lewis's doctoring of Resto's gloves) and *Renee* (a riveting 2011 documentary about the transformation of Richard Raskin into Renee Richards).

Drath's latest venture – *No Mas* – focuses on the first two fights between Sugar Ray Leonard and Roberto Duran and is part of ESPN's *30 for 30* series.

Leonard, in 1980, was well on his way to becoming boxing's premiere attraction. After winning a gold medal wat the 1976 Olympics, he'd won 27 consecutive pro fights and knocked out Wilfred Benitez to claim the WBC welterweight crown.

Duran had compiled a record of 71-1 and was on the short list of greatest lightweights of all time, having earned recognition as the 1970s "Fighter of the Decade."

Among the adjectives applied frequently to Duran were "savage," "relentless," "brutal" and "demonic." At a press conference prior to Leonard-Duran I, he flashed his middle finger in the direction of Ray's wife and offered to have sexual relations (although he expressed it in cruder terms) with Ray's mother.

Leonard told Drath, "I'd never faced anyone who was so nasty and angry."

Leonard-Duran I featured two great fighters with contrasting ring styles who were in their prime. Duran won by a razor-thin margin when Leonard unadvisedly chose to brawl rather than box with him.

Five months later, they met in the ring again. Duran was not in the best of shape, which meant that he fought at a slower pace. In Round 7, Leonard began showboating and taunting. Trailing by a slender margin on each of the judges' scorecards, Duran quit in the eighth. He might not have spoken the words "no mas" as legend has it. But by waving his hand, turning his back and walking away from the action, he clearly told referee Octavio Meyran, "This fight is over. I've had enough."

"This is the most inexplicable thing I have ever seen in the ring," blow-by-blow commentator Howard Cosell told a national television audience.

The boxing community and fight fans everywhere agreed with him.

No Mas features contemporary interviews with Leonard and Duran interspersed with talking heads. The best of the latter are Mike Tyson (who describes Leonard as "a pitbull with a pretty face") and the always reliable Steve Farhood.

There is also some good archival footage, including action from both fights and a wonderful scene where Ray Charles (whom Ray Charles Leonard was named after) sings "America the Beautiful" in the ring before the second Leonard-Duran bout. But the film doesn't capture the underlying personal drama that Drath so adroitly conveyed in his earlier sports documentaries.

There's some transparently manipulative footage of Leonard and Duran together in a boxing ring that was shot earlier this year. But Leonard is never asked on camera for a nuanced explanation of why he thinks Duran quit. And Duran says simply, "I don't regret anything."

One of the sad things about the "no mas" fight is that people forget how good Leonard was that night. All they remember is Duran's surrender. The headline was "Duran Quits," not "Leonard Wins." That leaves a frustrated Ray Leonard telling Drath, "It was all about why he quit. And I'm saying, 'Because of me.'"

Meanwhile, the question of what motivated Duran's actions that night remains unanswered. Was he suffering from stomach cramps? Did Leonard's showboating humiliate him to the point of wanting out? Did he say to himself, "This guy is making me look silly. I'm physically depleted. I'm not beating him tonight. F--- it."?

Duran has never conclusively answered that question. One wonders if he even knows the answer. ★

NO BACKGROUND CHECK NEEDED?

Boxing has been under fire since – well, since forever – for biased and incompetent judging. People often ask, "Who are these judges?"

One of them is Ted Gimza.

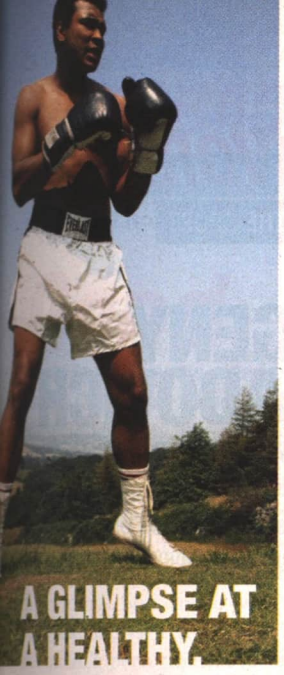
The WBA appointed Gimza as a judge for the title fight between Wladimir Klitschko and Alexander Povetkin on Oct. 5 in Moscow. Povetkin was so hopelessly outclassed that each judge had him losing all 12 rounds. Still, Gimza's credentials were of special note.

One judge for this fight had an interesting past.

Reporting on Gimza in April 2013, the Fox News website in Chicago wrote, "Gimza, a two-time felon who has a long criminal history dating back to 1975, had his most recent run-in with the law in February of 2012. He was pulled over in Buffalo Grove for speeding and subsequently charged with DUI, unlawful possession of a .38-caliber handgun, no firearm identification card, as well as possession of a switchblade. This while also being on probation for a previous DUI in 2010."

On July 29, Gimza pleaded guilty to a felony weapons charge and was sentenced to two years probation, which included home confinement and the requirement that he wear an electronic ankle bracelet for 160 days. Gimza then applied to the court for special permission to leave the United States and travel to Moscow "for employment purposes" to judge the Klitschko-Povetkin fight. Permission was granted.

These are not good credentials for a judge. ★



A GLIMPSE AT A HEALTHY, YOUNG ALI

The documentary *When Ali Came to Ireland* is an engaging look at a single event in Muhammad Ali's life.

After losing to Joe Frazier on March 8, 1971, Muhammad Ali embarked on a tour that saw him fight in Canada, Switzerland, Japan, Indonesia and a half dozen cities in the United States before journeying to Zaire to reclaim the heavyweight throne. One of the stops on his tour was Ireland, where he fought Al "Blue" Lewis on July 19, 1972.

When Ali Came to Ireland is a 50-minute documentary that recounts the events leading up to and during that fight.

Ali has Irish blood in him. One of his maternal great-grandparents, Abe Grady, emigrated to the United States from County Clare soon after the Civil War and married a woman listed on the census rolls as a "free colored woman."

That said, when Ali arrived on the Emerald Isle, he announced, "I don't know much about Ireland. All I know is that there's a lot of green here."

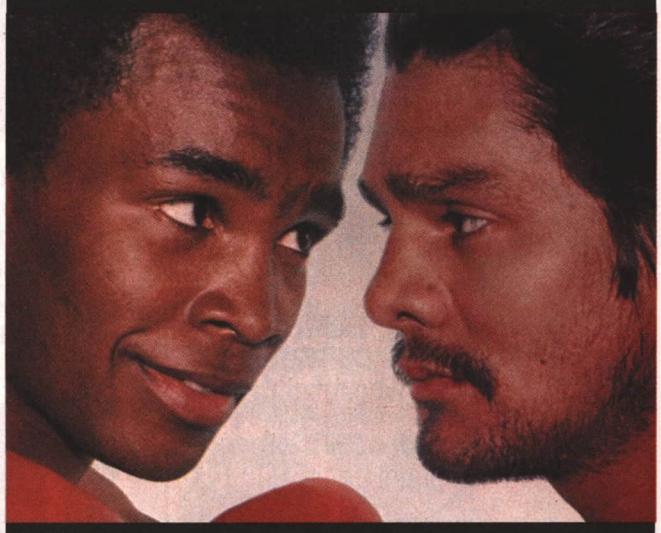
The promotion of Ali-Lewis was chaotic from the start. Promoter Butty Sugrue (a pub owner and former circus strongman) was strapped for cash and found it difficult to meet his pre-fight financial obligations. Then, on the day of the fight, thousands of spectators crashed the gates rather than pay for their tickets.

Lewis had been sentenced to 30 years in prison for beating a man to death in a Detroit street robbery. He had learned to box behind bars and, after 5½ years, he was given early parole for helping to mediate an end to a prison riot during which the warden had been held hostage. Lewis gave it his all against Ali but was knocked out in the 11th round.

When Ali Came to Ireland doesn't explore the big picture of Ali's life in or out of the ring. It focuses on one fight in one locale. Vintage footage (some of it not previously seen commercially in the United States) is mixed with talking heads to tell the tale. It's an engaging look. And there's poignancy in seeing Ali when he was healthy and young, surrounded by people like Angelo Dundee, Harold Conrad and George Kimball, who are now gone. ★

QUICK QUIZ

1. AS NOTED EARLIER, BAD DECISIONS ARE A REGRETTABLE PART OF BOXING. WHICH HISTORIC FIGHT DID JACK WOODRUFF, MICKEY VANN AND FRANZ MARTI JUDGE?



2. SUGAR RAY LEONARD LOST THREE TIMES DURING HIS PRO CAREER. HIS FIRST LOSS WAS TO ROBERTO DURAN. WHO ELSE BEAT HIM?

3. ONLY ONCE IN FLOYD MAYWEATHER JR.'S CAREER HAS A JUDGE SCORED A FIGHT FOR HIS OPPONENT. WHICH FIGHT AND WHICH JUDGE?

QUICK QUIZ ANSWERS:

1. They were the judges for the Sept. 10, 1993, fight between Pernell Whitaker and Julio Cesar Chavez. Most observers thought Whitaker won decisively. Woodruff scored the bout 115-113 in Whitaker's favor. Vann and Marti called it 115-115 for a majority draw.

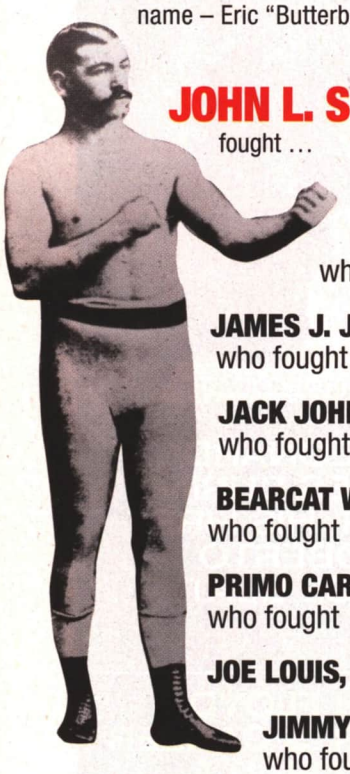
2. Leonard lost the last two fights of his career to Terry Norris in 1991 and Hector Camacho in 1997.

3. Tom Kaczmarek scored Mayweather's May 5, 2007, fight against Oscar De La Hoya 115-113 for De La Hoya. But he was overruled by Chuck Giampa (116-112) and Jerry Roth (115-113), both of whom favored Mayweather.

Thomas Hauser can be reached by email at thauser@rcn.com. His most recent book (*Straight Writes and Jabs: An Inside Look at Another Year in Boxing*) has just been published by the University of Arkansas Press.

ADVANCED DEGREES

Degrees of separation between fighters of the past and their counterparts today. This month, we introduce our first chain submitted by a reader. David Krizan of Kirkland, Wash., linked legendary heavyweight champion John L. Sullivan to another, more unusual heavyweight who also became a household name – Eric "Butterbean" Esch.



JOHN L. SULLIVAN
fought …

JAMES J. CORBETT, who fought …

JAMES J. JEFFRIES, who fought …

JACK JOHNSON, who fought …

BEARCAT WRIGHT, who fought …

PRIMO CARNERA, who fought …

JOE LOUIS, who fought …

JIMMY BIVINS, who fought …

ARCHIE MOORE, who fought …

MUHAMMAD ALI, who fought …

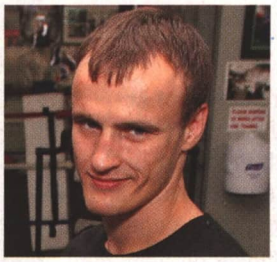
LARRY HOLMES, who fought …

BUTTERBEAN

FIGHTERS' FAVORITES

WHAT BOXERS ARE INTO OUTSIDE THE SPORT

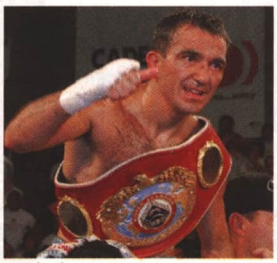
By **Anson Wainwright**



EVGENY GRADOVICH

IBF FEATHERWEIGHT TITLEHOLDER

MUSIC: "Different music, but my favorite is probably 50 Cent."
CAR: "Ferrari, Bentley or Aston Martin. Mercedes aren't bad, too. (Laughs.)"
FOOD: "Italian cuisine."
TATTOOS: "I don't like tattoos."
ATHLETE OUTSIDE BOXING: "Probably Michael Jordan."
MOVIE: "*Knocking on Heaven's Door.*"
VIDEO GAME: "*FIFA.*"



OMAR NARVAEZ

WBO JUNIOR BANTAMWEIGHT TITLEHOLDER

MUSIC: "Bachata, Romeo Santos."
CAR: "I have a BMW 135i."
FOOD: "Asado, Argentine Barbecue."
TATTOOS: "I don´t like them and don´t have any."
ATHLETE OUTSIDE BOXING: "Usain Bolt."
MOVIE: "*Fast & Furious 6.*"
VIDEO GAME: "I´m not into it, so I have no favorite."

DANIEL ESTRADA

LIGHTWEIGHT CONTENDER FROM MEXICO

MUSIC: "I like Mexican music. Northern, the band."
CAR: "I have an Ibiza, and I desire a Land Rover. I want an SUV to transport my family."
FOOD: "I like seafood. I don't like a particular type of cuisine. I like all cuisine types provided they have seafood."
TATTOOS: "No, none."
ATHLETE OUTSIDE BOXING: "Usain Bolt."
MOVIE: "*La Vida es Bella (Life is Beautiful).* Also, all the *Rocky* movies and all boxing films."
VIDEO GAME: "None."

EMAIL YOUR ADVANCED DEGREES TO COMEOUTWRITING@SEPUBLICATIONS.COM.

GOOD, BAD, WORSE

THE BEST AND WORST IN BOXING FROM THE PAST MONTH

By **Michael Rosenthal**

Good

Manny Pacquiao's one-sided victory over Brandon Rios on Nov. 23 in Macau, China, was a boon to his career. The Filipino star had lost consecutive fights, prompting many to wonder whether he was in decline. He proved against Rios that he is far from finished. The victory also was important to the people in the Philippines, whose pride in Pacquiao seems boundless. Only a few weeks earlier, Typhoon Haiyan had swept through the country. More than 5,000 people were killed and millions more were uprooted from their homes. Still, those who could did what they always do when Pacquiao fights: They found a place to watch it on TV. Of course, Pacquiao's performance didn't substantially change the lives of those suffering. At the very least, it was a positive distraction. And perhaps the proud moment his hand was raised in victory offered some hope that the Filipino people could pick up the pieces and go on with their lives.

Bad

Edwin Rodriguez did well from a business standpoint in his fight against RING and WBA titleholder Andre Ward on Nov. 16, earning a career-high purse of $800,000. It takes the average American around 17 years to make that kind of money. Otherwise, the promotion was a disaster for Rodriguez. He failed to make weight by two pounds, which cost him 20 percent of his original $1 million purse and made the matchup a non-title fight. And he was embarrassed inside the ropes, losing a near-shutout decision. He ate hard punches all night and couldn't find Ward to land his own. The only thing about which he can boast is that Ward never really hurt him, which is a tribute to his chin but might also have had something to do with his size advantage. It's a good thing Rodriguez made good money. I doubt TV executives are going to be clamoring for him to appear on their networks again anytime soon.

Worse

Howard Foster shouldn't be branded a bad referee based on one high-profile gaffe. This was a doozy, though. Quick background: George Groves was giving the performance of his life against Carl Froch when Froch landed a few hard punches in the ninth round, prompting Foster to end the fight prematurely. In doing so, he inflicted damage to a number of parties. Froch wasn't allowed to complete a remarkable comeback, Groves was denied the chance to survive and possibly emerge with a career-changing victory, the fans were cheated out of what might've been 3½ unforgettable rounds and British boxing – and the sport in general – took a nasty hit. I understand that the referee's duty is to protect the fighters. Still, he must have justifiable cause to end a fight. It didn't exist in this case, at least not at the moment he stopped it. The outrage expressed by fans afterward WAS justified.

A MONTHLY BOXING LIST:

10

This month: 10 words or phrases associated with boxing that are also used in other contexts. This is our second such list. The previous one is below the main list here.

1. **Body blow:** A very damaging event.
2. **Down but not out:** In trouble but surviving.
3. **Getting beat to the punch:** Losing an opportunity to someone else.
4. **Hat in the ring:** Announcement of candidacy.
5. **Heavyweight:** An influential person in any endeavor.
6. **Jab:** Deliver a verbal shot.
7. **Puncher's chance:** Faint hope of winning.
8. **Roll with the punches:** Take it as it comes.
9. **Take a dive:** Intentionally lose.
10. **Toe to toe:** Going at it; a debate perhaps.

The previous 10: Not pulling punches, knock out, punchy, boxers, below the belt, down for the count, on the ropes, throw in the towel, count out and infighting.

Note: Fighters of the distant past would throw their hat into the ring to announce their willingness to fight.

RING POLL

A MONTHLY POLL OF OUR RINGTV.COM READERS

Immediately after Manny Pacquiao's one-sided victory over Brandon Rios on Nov. 23, which reaffirmed the Filipino's place among the sport's elite, the boxing world began to look forward. Thus, we asked: **What's the most realistic big fight available to Manny Pacquiao in 2014?** Here is how you responded.

THE PERCENTAGES:

Timothy Bradley II **69.3**
Juan Manuel Marquez V **18.0**
Ruslan Provodnikov **9.1**
Kell Brook **3.6**

***Note:** 9,781 readers voted*

GEORGE FOREMAN

George Foreman had two boxing careers, one as a brooding knockout machine and another as a lovable grandfather-type who shocked the world. "Big George" was special in both incarnations.

Foreman won gold at the 1968 Olympics in Mexico City and then proved he could also succeed as a pro, winning his first 40 fights (37 by knockout) and stopping then-unbeaten Joe Frazier to win the heavyweight championship during the division's Golden Era.

Muhammad Ali proved to be Foreman's undoing in the famous "Rumble in the Jungle" in 1974 in Zaire (now the Democratic Republic of the Congo), which ended with Foreman on his back in the eighth round. Foreman lost a decision to Jimmy Young three years later, immediately after which he said he had a religious experience that compelled him to become a minister.

It seemed we'd seen the last of George Foreman in the ring.

However, 10 years later, in hopes of raising money for his ministry, he returned to boxing. Foreman, pudgy but still immensely strong, didn't jump into major fights immediately. Instead, he worked his way back into fighting shape one bout at a time.

Thus, he was ready when true challenges presented themselves. He stopped Gerry Cooney in a celebrated matchup but fell short in world title bids against the much younger Evander Holyfield and then Tommy Morrison.

Foreman didn't squander his third chance to regain the championship. He was far behind on the cards

George Foreman (left) listed Muhammad Ali as the best he faced in a number of categories.

against IBF titleholder Michael Moorer when, in an unforgettable moment, a single right hand relieved Moorer of his senses and gave Foreman the championship almost exactly 20 years after he lost it to Ali.

Foreman was 45 at the time, the oldest ever to win the heavyweight title.

He retired for good in 1997 with a record of 76-5 (68 knockouts), after which he made far more money selling grills than he did in his boxing career. Now 64, Foreman says he's enjoying life as a businessman in partnership with his five sons also named George.

He was inducted into the International Boxing Hall of Fame in 2003.

Foreman graciously agreed to speak to THE RING about the best he faced in 10 key categories.

BEST OVERALL

MUHAMMAD ALI: It's Evander Holyfield or Muhammad Ali. I'll go with Ali because of his jab. It was like something out of a nightmare. I saw it happen but couldn't believe it.

BEST BOXER

EVANDER HOLYFIELD: He was a good boxer. It's between him and Jimmy Young, but I'd give it to Evander Holyfield. He'd wait for an opening, and he'd throw combinations. I mean he knew that [even] if they didn't do damage, they'd sway the judges. One time Evander hit me – I don't know – 25, 30 times. When he didn't do anything to me, he threw an elbow to make it look as though I was staggering. It wasn't even a shot. It was rude and crude, but it's boxing, and he knew how to sway the judges.

BEST JAB

ALI: In the gym, we'd say "spin that jab." That means turn it over like a spinning top. You throw it from the top and it comes down and you spin it out. I was in the ring with him and he spun the jab. Then he stepped to the side. I was trying to counter him and he did it again. That was absolutely the best jab I've seen, and it was used on me.

BEST DEFENSE

HOLYFIELD: A few times I hit him pretty good. He was great at covering up and stepping out of the way. He had the best defense. I can't give it to Ali because I hit him with everything I wanted to hit him with. He just took it, and I got tired of hitting him. He just backed up to the ropes and took punishment, which is not a defense at all. Rope-a-dope, I invented it, because he laid on the ropes and like a dope I kept throwing punches until I got tired. Nobody should be able to get hit like I hit him.

BEST CHIN

ALI: Hands down, Muhammad Ali. I hit him with everything. I've never seen anything like that. He looked at me one time after I hit him with a good shot, and I was like, "I know you're going down." And he looked at me like, "Noooooo. It didn't kill me, so I'm not going down!" I only wish I'd watched all of his film. I was a bit too egotistical to understand nobody had knocked him out. I just didn't know that. He had the strongest chin in boxing. He had more pride than any human being I ever met in my life.

BEST PUNCHER

RON LYLE: He hit me so hard it didn't even hurt. It was like someone was abusing me, and I had no power over it. I think if I had really been hurt, I'd have stayed on the canvas. I was like, "This couldn't be happening to me." He had the hardest punch I ever faced.

FASTEST HANDS

HOLYFIELD: The combinations by Evander Holyfield, he threw them like a middleweight. I remember Ali threw a right hand at me, and it was the fastest I've ever been hit. It was a straight right hand. I don't know how and where it came from. It was fast. The fastest right hand I ever got hit with was by Muhammad Ali. But hand speed and combinations, Evander Holyfield was full of it.

FASTEST FEET

JIMMY YOUNG: Jimmy Young really knew how to position himself, in and out.

SMARTEST

ALI: I think it was Muhammad. He would not trade punches with me no matter what. He was like, "You're doing all of this to me, but I am not going to get into an exchange with you." At one point of the fight, he really got confident, and I thought I'm going to get him, I'm going to knock his brains out. But then I heard (from his corner), "Muhammad, don't trade with the sucker," and he put his hands up, and I never got another chance. That was the smartest man. He kept his cool, he kept his heart, and he knew he was hurt, and he wasn't embarrassed to hang on if he got hurt. If you hit me and hurt me, I'd probably have been embarrassed to have hung on as much as he did. He was smart.

STRONGEST

LYLE: I think Ron Lyle. Generally when I hit guys, they started flying or getting out of the way. (Lyle) started to look for a way to hit me back. He was like, "I'm as big, strong and tough as you are."

BlackBerry Torc

4Go-getters

4Great fights

The first-ever 4G BlackBerry® Torch™
Only from AT&T.

Rethink Possible®

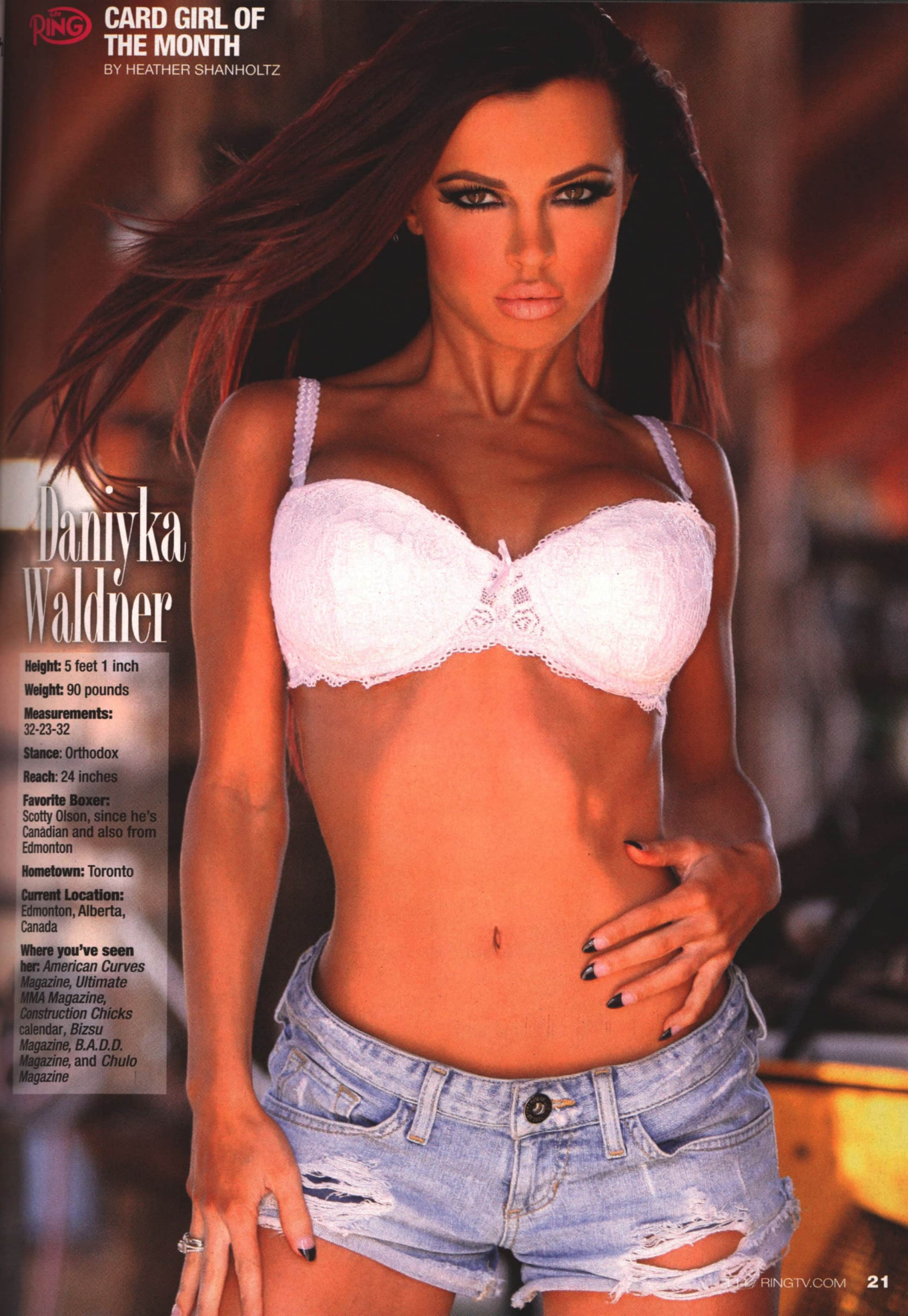
FREE SHIPPING | 1.866.MOBILITY – ATT.COM/TORCH

4G speeds delivered by HSPA+ with enhanced backhaul. Available in limited areas. Availability increasing with ongoing backhaul deployment. Requires 4G device. Learn more at att.com/network.

BlackBerry®, RIM®, Research In Motion®, and related trademarks, names, and logos are the property of Research In Motion Limited and are registered and/or used in the U.S. and countries around the world. Used under license from Research In Motion Limited. Screen simulated. ©2011 AT&T Intellectual Property. Service provided by AT&T Mobility. All rights reserved. AT&T and the AT&T logo are trademarks of AT&T Intellectual Property. All other marks contained herein are the property of their respective owners.

CARD GIRL OF THE MONTH

BY HEATHER SHANHOLTZ



Daniyka Waldner

Height: 5 feet 1 inch

Weight: 90 pounds

Measurements: 32-23-32

Stance: Orthodox

Reach: 24 inches

Favorite Boxer: Scotty Olson, since he's Canadian and also from Edmonton

Hometown: Toronto

Current Location: Edmonton, Alberta, Canada

Where you've seen her: *American Curves Magazine*, *Ultimate MMA Magazine*, *Construction Chicks* calendar, *Bizsu Magazine*, *B.A.D.D. Magazine*, and *Chulo Magazine*

Daniyka Waldner

THE RING CARD GIRL OF THE MONTH BY: **HEATHER SHANHOLTZ**

WWW.HEATHERSHANHOLTZ.COM | WWW.TWITTER.COM/HSHANHOLTZ | WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/MODELHEATHER

DO YOU WANT TO BE A RING CARD GIRL OF THE MONTH?

submit photos and bio to **ringcardgirl@sepublications.com**

Nonito Donaire knocked out Vic Darchinyan in the ninth round to win a fight he was losing on the cards.

WHERE'S THE FIRE?

NONITO DONAIRE RALLIED TO STOP VIC DARCHINYAN IN THEIR REMATCH BUT SOMETHING WAS MISSING

By **David Greisman**

It's too early to say that Donaire is done, that Nonito is finito. What's clear, however, is that if Nonito Donaire cannot perform to his full potential, then "The Filipino Flash" might as well flush these past few years down the toilet.

It wouldn't be Guillermo Rigondeaux who ruined him. Instead, it would be Donaire himself, a man who has physical gifts but has lost the mental grit. We root for fighters who give their all despite their limitations. We find it harder to forgive those who are truly talented but find ways to fail themselves. Donaire's speed and power made him formidable. His dearth of desire made his 2013 forgettable.

Donaire hasn't failed himself yet. He's not doing himself any favors, though. He had plenty of excuses for his April loss to Rigondeaux. He was injured, unfocused and had lost his competitive fire at a time when he was facing his most competitive foe.

He returned in November against Vic Darchinyan, a rematch that was supposed to allow Donaire to rebound, rather than providing a referendum on his career.

Donaire had knocked out Darchinyan in 2007 and was expected to do so again. It proved to be much more difficult this time. Darchinyan was determined and disciplined. Donaire has been distracted and disinterested, and he was in danger of losing a decision before he rallied to score a late technical knockout.

Donaire should be commended for stepping into the ring despite being sick and while his homeland, the Philippines, was reeling from a massive typhoon. He still must be criticized for his

admitted lack of motivation.

Until and unless Donaire finds the fire to go with his firepower, the wise decision will be to keep him as far away as possible from a rematch with Rigondeaux. Then again, it would have been wise to keep Donaire away from Rigondeaux to begin with.

★

The best thing about Bernard Hopkins' win over Karo Murat is that it made us want to see him again. And the worst thing about Hopkins' win over Murat is that it made us want to see him again.

It's a setup for another letdown.

Hopkins landed more punches on Murat than in any other of his fights over the past 12 years, the most since his 2001 win over Felix Trinidad, according to CompuBox. That says three things about Hopkins:

1. He had long heard the call for his fights to be more entertaining, but finally he heeded it.

2. He knew he could be more offensively lovable and defensively liable against an opponent the caliber of Murat.

3. The CompuBox statistic only accentuates how excruciating Hopkins fights can be.

We've long put up with him because of the small handful of victories in which we get vintage virtuoso Hopkins. The dreadful bouts outnumber the delightful ones, though. A rare few were worth watching again. Many of them we wish we didn't have to sit through in the first place. That we continue to subject ourselves to the potential for pain is because Hopkins remains a compelling figure, though not always a compelling fighter.

The Murat fight was fun, thankfully, and that was because Hopkins put punches together instead of seeking single shots, combinations far more captivating than the double whammy of movement and mauling.

The concern is that Hopkins has a pattern: He'll entertain when his career is most in need of it, then defiantly return to winning ugly. He got caught clean by Murat. He won't be willing to have the same thing happen against punchers such as Adonis Stevenson or Sergey Kovalev.

Hopkins has spent his adult life proving his doubters wrong. Hopefully he will do the same by continuing to entertain. It's one thing to be an ageless wonder. It's another to be a joyless winner.

★

Too many of us view fighters as replaceable, as temporary members of an always-changing cast of characters.

We're failing them.

We failed Frankie Leal, a junior featherweight who never should have been allowed to box again after being taken out on a stretcher, hospitalized and suspended indefinitely following his March 2012 loss to Evgeny Gradovich. And yet Leal, who probably had no better way of making money, was allowed to return to the ring five times in Mexico. He died days after his final loss.

The athletic commissions shouldn't have ignored his medical history. The promoter should've known better. His team should've looked past the paychecks and seen the potential cost of Leal taking more punches.

We failed Magomed Abdusalamov, a heavyweight who knew that quitting against Mike Perez could mean that he would never get another shot. Abdusalamov was paid just $40,000, which is about as much as Floyd Mayweather Jr. earned in just two seconds against Canelo Alvarez. Abdusalamov went from the ring to the hospital, where he was diagnosed with a blood clot and later suffered a stroke.

We judge losers so harshly that it's no wonder that prospects are now brought along so cautiously.

Bernard Hopkins (left) gave an entertaining performance against Karo Murat, which isn't typical of him.

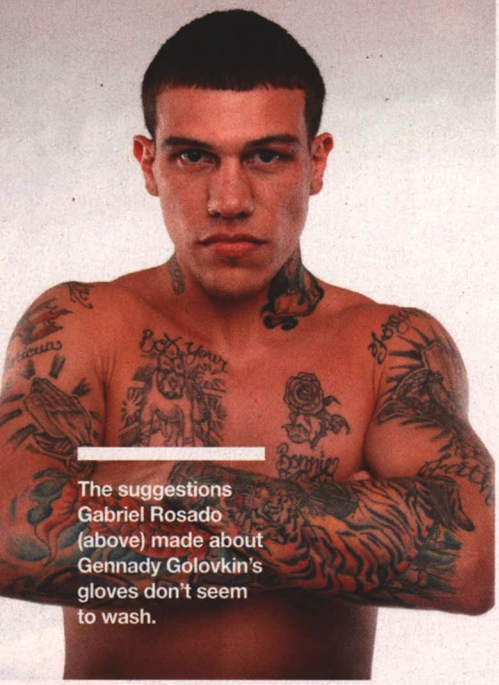
We want Deontay Wilder to face better heavyweight opponents, yet there would be fewer people on his bandwagon, and less of a chance of a title shot, had he lost a test before he was truly ready to take it.

Quitters are seen as even worse than losers. We tore into Miguel Cotto for taking a knee in his first fight with Antonio Margarito, when that was absolutely the right choice to make. We didn't tear into Margarito for deciding to stay the distance and take his lumps against Manny Pacquiao, and that left Margarito with a badly injured eye.

Cotto has since been welcomed back and embraced by boxing fans. Lesser-known prospects and contenders don't often get that chance.

It's unfortunate that it often takes tragedy to give us perspective. There are many changes that need to be made, by everyone from the commissions to the promoters to us fans. The more we do for boxers, the more we do for boxing.

 By **Brian Harty**



The suggestions Gabriel Rosado (above) made about Gennady Golovkin's gloves don't seem to wash.

CONSPIRACY THEORIES

During a roundtable discussion before his Nov. 26 fight against **Peter Quillin**, middleweight **Gabriel Rosado** reflected on his seventh-round TKO loss to **Gennady Golovkin** nine months earlier. He had a theory about the fight, which had left ringside photographers struggling to squeegee the blood from their lenses.

"When he hit me in the first round, it felt different," said Rosado. He expanded on that, saying Golovkin's jab "felt like a bat hitting the top of my dome" and that he could feel his opponent's wraps with each punch – something that doesn't normally happen until the championship rounds. He also said Golovkin's Grant gloves looked "skinny" [Rosado also wore Grants] and suggested they had less cushioning across the knuckles.

Golovkin's promoter, **Tom Loeffler**, dismissed the idea and said Rosado's team had even been offered a pair of Gennady's gloves to use, but they refused. Grant CEO **Elvis Phillips** called the claim "insulting to me and my company" and attributed it to sour grapes.

It should be noted that Golovkin's sparring partners have frequently come out of camp with horror stories about the Kazakhstani's power. **David Imoesiri**, who sparred with Golovkin in 2012, said he hit harder than heavyweight **Alexander Povetkin**. So, what Rosado calls "suspect as s—t" may simply be what others call "GGG."

Jimrex Jaca's fight against Australian **Chad Bennett** was canceled along with the rest of the Oct. 23 **Anthony Mundine-Shane Mosely** card in Sydney, but not before Bennett tried to pay him $3,500 to take a dive, said the Filipino junior welterweight. Bennett disputed the allegation and said the actual issue was that Jaca wanted to get paid for the fight that didn't happen.

Promoter **Bob Arum** voiced his own conspiracy theory based on his time as a lawyer in the John F. Kennedy administration and the subsequent research he did for the Warren Commission report. He told Yahoo! Sports he believes that "Kennedy was assassinated by (Lee Harvey) Oswald and Oswald alone, but that he was acting as an agent for (Fidel) Castro" as revenge for numerous failed plots to kill the Cuban leader.

Cuban Olympian and former lightweight titleholder **Yuriorkis Gamboa** was arrested in Florida and charged with two counts of misdemeanor domestic violence. Gamboa was brought in for similar allegations by the same woman (his ex-wife) in 2011, but was not convicted.

Also in Florida, the story of two friends – **Pedro Rodriguez** and **Inocente Fiss** – sharing an apartment: They were both Cuban prospects tagged to fight on a Nov. 26 Golden Boy card. And then, Rodriguez claims, Fiss came home drunk and an argument over money led to an attack by machete. Rodriguez needed surgery to repair the damage to his right arm. (Who even *has* a machete?)

Two real tragedies took place over the past month. Junior featherweight **Francisco Leal** died three days after being taken from the ring on a stretcher in Mexico. And in New York, heavyweight **Magomed Abdusalamov** suffered a stroke and was placed in an induced coma following a hellacious ring war at Madison Square Garden. At press time Abdusalamov was thought to be improving and was awakened, but he went back on life support after a rise in temperature. Full stories on both men can be found in this issue.

Two others were a bit more fortunate: Light heavyweight **Daniel MacKinnon** underwent emergency brain surgery following a TKO loss in New Zealand, and featherweight **Jose Carmona** had a similar experience following a bout against **Jorge Arce** in Mexico. Both fighters appeared to be in stable condition at press time.

Plans to erect a statue in Philadelphia honoring heavyweight legend **Joe Frazier** were interrupted when the original artist, **Lawrence J. Nowlan**, died in August of heart disease at the age of 48. Local sculptor **Stephen Layne** has now stepped in, and the project is back on track.

The licensing rights to **Muhammad Ali**'s image were sold to Authentic Brands Group, the same group that owns the rights for **Elvis Presley** and **Marilyn Monroe**, for an undisclosed price. The portfolio includes photos, videos and the phrase "float like a butterfly, sting like a bee," among others.

And finally, **Adrien Broner** will also now be mentioned. He apparently (yawn) had sex with two women at the same time and ... (yaaawwn) ... the video somehow leaked from his phone to a website and ... (zzzzzzzzz).

"The Bible Of Boxing"®

The RING

ringtv.com®

RingTV.com gives you on a daily basis what the THE RING magazine gives you each month – the best boxing coverage in the world.

Here are just a few of the many features on RingTV.com:

The most-complete day-to-day coverage of the boxing world, including news, award-winning feature stories and photos, unparalleled previews and live fight coverage.

The world's most-respected ratings in all 17 weight classes and pound for pound updated every week.

Live streams of fight cards, weigh-ins, interviews and more.

RingTV, our periodic show featuring RING Editors Doug Fischer and Michael Rosenthal, in which we review past fights and look forward to upcoming events.

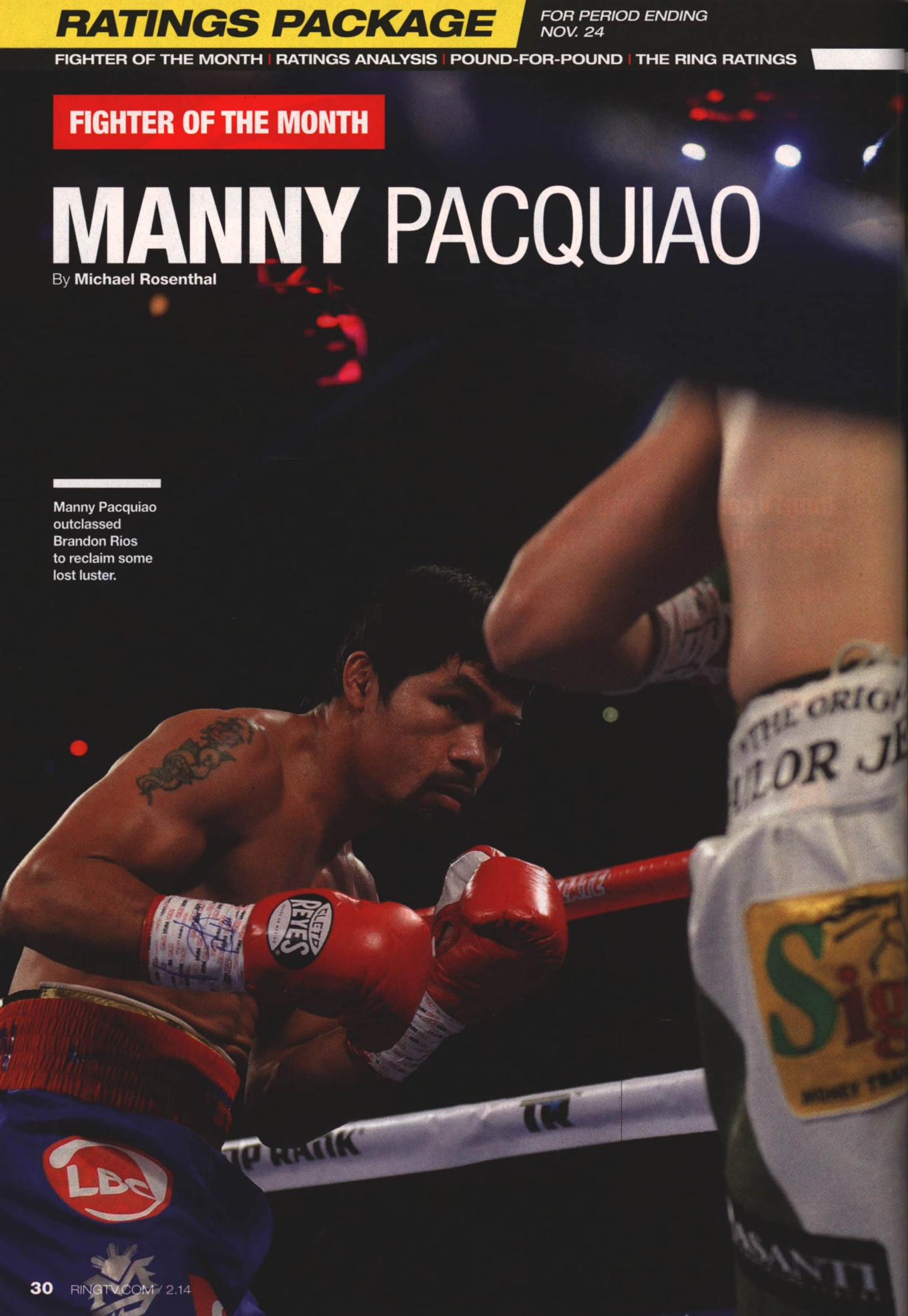
High-quality videos of a variety of events and interviews with the biggest names in the sport.

Up-to-date schedule of major boxing cards.

FIGHTER OF THE MONTH

MANNY PACQUIAO

By **Michael Rosenthal**



Manny Pacquiao outclassed Brandon Rios to reclaim some lost luster.

Manny Pacquiao's one-sided victory over Brandon Rios will not be remembered as one of his greatest.

Rios is a good, extremely tough fighter but nowhere near Pacquiao's level, even at this stage of the Filipino's career. The near-shutout decision was pretty much what people expected, although some predicted a knockout.

The victory on Nov. 23 in Macau, China, was important for a number of reasons, though.

Pacquiao is 34 and has been in many demanding fights, which takes a toll on the body. He probably is beyond his prime physically. And he was coming off a brutal, one-punch knockout loss against rival Juan Manuel Marquez. No one knows how a fighter will respond to that.

Indeed, there was reason to wonder whether Pacquiao would remain a major player in the sport going into the fight against Rios.

No reason to wonder any longer. The eight-division titleholder demonstrated that he can still dominate a good opponent, looking very much like the dynamo who became a superstar in the last decade even if he has slipped just a bit.

Rios had no clue how to cope with Pacquiao's speed, movement and all-around ability, which allowed Pacquiao to pick him apart while taking very few punches himself. Pacquiao (55-5-2, 38 knockouts) couldn't finish the job by stopping Rios (31-2-1, 23 KOs) but that's no great surprise given Rios' ability to take a punch.

In the end, it was an excellent performance that confirmed Pacquiao still has the ability to fight at a very high level. And, of course, it's clear now that he has more big-money fights in his near future.

There was even some chatter afterward that a mega-fight between Pacquiao and Floyd Mayweather Jr. might yet happen. Ah, it's nice to have Pacquiao around at least a little longer.

POUND FOR POUND: No change.

HEAVYWEIGHTS: David Haye (No. 3 last month) had shoulder surgery, which resulted in the second cancelation of his date with No. 6 Tyson Fury. Haye left the list (and possibly boxing), and everyone below moved up a notch. Deontay Wilder arrived at No. 10, 30-fight knockout streak in hand.

CRUISERWEIGHTS: No change.

LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHTS: Karo Murat earned his diploma from the Bernard Hopkins School of Boxing with a unanimous-decision loss and fell from No. 6 to No. 8. The 48-year-old Hopkins stayed put at No. 1.

SUPER MIDDLEWEIGHTS: Edwin Rodriguez (No. 7 last month) was dropped from the ratings after failing to make weight for his unanimous-decision loss to division champ Andre Ward. Andre Dirrell entered at No. 10.

MIDDLEWEIGHTS: Peter Quillin (No. 5 last month) moved up a notch after a 10th-round stoppage of Gabriel Rosado (unrated). Gennady Golovkin (No. 1 last month) was in the second-longest fight of his career but knocked out Curtis Stevens in Round 8. Stevens fell from No. 9 to No. 10.

JUNIOR MIDDLEWEIGHTS: Demetrius Andrade (No. 8 last month) defeated Vanes Martirosyan (No. 5 at the time) by a split decision for the vacant WBO title. Andrade rose to No. 6, Martirosyan fell to No. 7, and undefeated Texan Jermell Charlo entered at No. 10 after Zaurbek Baysangurov (No. 7 last month) exited due to inactivity.

WELTERWEIGHTS: No change.

JUNIOR WELTERWEIGHTS: No change.

LIGHTWEIGHTS: No change.

JUNIOR LIGHTWEIGHTS: Former featherweight champ Mikey Garcia debuted at No. 2 after an eighth-round knockout of Rocky Martinez (No. 2 last month). Juan Carlos Salgado (No. 7 last month) was dropped from the list after losing by TKO to gatekeeper Miguel Roman (unrated), and No. 8-rated Takahiro Ao rose a notch after stopping unrated Edgar Lomeli in the first round.

FEATHERWEIGHTS: Garcia vacated the championship spot, while Nonito Donaire (No. 1 junior featherweight last month) gave 126 pounds a try and entered at No. 10 after pulling out a ninth-round knockout of Vic Darchinyan (No. 5 junior featherweight). Evgeny Gradovich (No. 6 last month) rose a spot after delivering a ninth-round knockout against Billy Dib, who dropped from No. 7 to No. 8.

JUNIOR FEATHERWEIGHTS: With Donaire's departure, everyone gained a rank, and mainstay Fernando Montiel reappeared at No. 10.

BANTAMWEIGHTS: No change.

JUNIOR BANTAMWEIGHTS: No change.

FLYWEIGHTS: Giovani Segura, who pretty much ended Ivan Calderon's career with a pair of knockouts at 108 pounds a couple years ago, entered the 112-pound list with a 12th-round KO of former titleholder Hernan Marquez, who tumbled from No. 3 to No. 8. Edgar Sosa and Juan Carlos Reveco each rose two spots, to Nos. 3 and 5, respectively, on the strength of past wins. Roman Gonzalez (No. 1 jr. flyweight last month) scored a second-round TKO over tough cookie Oscar Blanquet (unrated) and entered at No. 1 over Juan Francisco Estrada, who he beat in November 2012. Everyone was pushed down a spot, and No. 10 Luis Concepcion was ejected from the list.

JUNIOR FLYWEIGHTS: Gonzalez exited the top spot, lifting everyone up a notch and creating space for undefeated Thai fighter Paipharob Kokietgym at the bottom.

STRAWWEIGHTS: No change.

RING cruiserweight champ Yoan Pablo Hernandez (right) stopped Alexander Alekseev in 10 rounds to retain his title.

HEAVYWEIGHTS
WEIGHT UNLIMITED

C	**WLADIMIR KLITSCHKO**	Ukraine | 61-3-0 (51 KOs)
1.	**KUBRAT PULEV**	Bulgaria | 18-0-0 (9 KOs)
2.	**ALEXANDER POVETKIN**	Russia | 26-1-0 (18 KOs)
3.	**TOMASZ ADAMEK**	Poland | 49-2-0 (29 KOs)
4.	**BERMANE STIVERNE**	Canada | 23-1-1 (20 KOs)
5.	**TYSON FURY**	U.K. | 21-0-0 (15 KOs)
6.	**ROBERT HELENIUS**	Finland | 19-0-0 (11 KOs)
7.	**CHRIS ARREOLA**	U.S. | 36-3-0 (31 KOs)
8.	**ODLANIER SOLIS**	Cuba | 20-1-0 (13 KOs)
9.	**RUSLAN CHAGAEV**	Uzbekistan | 32-2-1 (20 KOs)
10.	**DEONTAY WILDER**	U.S. | 30-0-0 (30 KOs)

CRUISERWEIGHTS
WEIGHT LIMIT: 200 LBS

C	**YOAN PABLO HERNANDEZ**	Cuba | 28-1-0 (14 KOs)
1.	**MARCO HUCK**	Germany | 36-2-1 (25 KOs)
2.	**KRZYSZTOF WLODARCZYK**	Poland | 48-2-1 (34 KOs)
3.	**DENIS LEBEDEV**	Russia | 25-2-0 (19 KOs)
4.	**OLA AFOLABI**	U.K. | 20-3-4 (9 KOs)
5.	**GRIGORY DROZD**	Russia | 37-1-0 (26 KOs)
6.	**ILUNGA MAKUBA**	Congo | 15-1-0 (14 KOs)
7.	**FIRAT ARSLAN**	Germany | 33-6-2 (21 KOs)
8.	**DMYTRO KUCHER**	Ukraine | 21-1-0 (15 KOs)
9.	**MATEUSZ MASTERNAK**	Poland | 30-1-0 (22 KOs)
10.	**THABISO MCHUNU**	South Africa | 14-1-0 (10 KOs)

LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHTS
WEIGHT LIMIT: 175 LBS

C	**ADONIS STEVENSON**	Canada | 22-1-0 (19 KOs)
1.	**BERNARD HOPKINS**	U.S. | 54-6-2 (32 KOs)
2.	**SERGEY KOVALEV**	Russia | 22-0-1 (20 KOs)
3.	**NATHAN CLEVERLY**	U.K. | 26-1-0 (12 KOs)
4.	**CHAD DAWSON**	U.S. | 31-3-0 (17 KOs)
5.	**TAVORIS CLOUD**	U.S. | 24-2-0 (19 KOs)
6.	**TONY BELLEW**	U.K. | 20-1-1 (12 KOs)
7.	**ISAAC CHILEMBA**	Malawi | 21-2-2 (9 KOs)
8.	**KARO MURAT**	Germany | 25-2-1 (15 KOs)
9.	**JUERGEN BRAEHMER**	Germany | 41-2-0 (31 KOs)
10.	**JEAN PASCAL**	Canada | 27-2-1 (16 KOs)

SUPER MIDDLEWEIGHTS
WEIGHT LIMIT: 168 LBS

C	**ANDRE WARD**	U.S. | 27-0-0 (14 KOs)
1.	**CARL FROCH**	U.K. | 32-2-0 (23 KOs)
2.	**MIKKEL KESSLER**	Denmark | 46-3-0 (35 KOs)
3.	**LUCIAN BUTE**	Romania | 31-1-0 (24 KOs)
4.	**ROBERT STIEGLITZ**	Russia | 46-3-0 (26 KOs)
5.	**GEORGE GROVES**	U.K. | 19-1-0 (15 KOs)
6.	**ARTHUR ABRAHAM**	Armenia | 38-4-0 (28 KOs)
7.	**THOMAS OOSTHUIZEN**	South Africa | 22-0-2 (13 KOs)
8.	**SAKIO BIKA**	Cameroon | 32-5-2 (21 KOs)
9.	**JAMES DEGALE**	U.K. | 17-1-0 (11 KOs)
10.	**ANDRE DIRRELL**	U.S. | 21-1-0 (14 KOs)

MIDDLEWEIGHTS
WEIGHT LIMIT: 160 LBS

- C **SERGIO MARTINEZ** Argentina | 51-2-2 (28 KOs)
- 1. **GENNADY GOLOVKIN** Kazakhstan | 28-0-0 (25 KOs)
- 2. **DARREN BARKER** U.K. | 26-1-0 (16 KOs)
- 3. **DANIEL GEALE** Australia | 29-2-0 (15 KOs)
- 4. **PETER QUILLIN** U.S. | 30-0-0 (22 KOs)
- 5. **FELIX STURM** Germany | 38-3-2 (17 KOs)
- 6. **MARTIN MURRAY** U.K. | 25-1-1 (11 KOs)
- 7. **MATTHEW MACKLIN** U.K. | 29-5-0 (20 KOs)
- 8. **MARCO ANTONIO RUBIO** Mexico | 58-6-1 (50 KOs)
- 9. **MAX BURSAK** Ukraine | 28-1-1 (12 KOs)
- 10. **CURTIS STEVENS** U.S. | 25-4-0 (18 KOs)

JR. MIDDLEWEIGHTS
WEIGHT LIMIT: 154 LBS

- C **FLOYD MAYWEATHER JR.** U.S. | 45-0-0 (26 KOs)
- 1. **SAUL ALVAREZ** Mexico | 42-1-1 (30 KOs)
- 2. **AUSTIN TROUT** U.S. | 26-1-0 (14 KOs)
- 3. **MIGUEL COTTO** Puerto Rico | 38-4-0 (31 KOs)
- 4. **ERISLANDY LARA** Cuba | 18-1-2 (12 KOs)
- 5. **CARLOS MOLINA** Mexico | 22-5-2 (6 KOs)
- 6. **DEMETRIUS ANDRADE** U.S. | 20-0-0 (13 KOs)
- 7. **VANES MARTIROSYAN** U.S. | 33-1-1 (21 KOs)
- 8. **WILLIE NELSON** U.S. | 21-1-1 (12 KOs)
- 9. **ISHE SMITH** U.S. | 25-6-0 (11 KOs)
- 10. **JERMELL CHARLO** U.S. | 22-0-0 (11 KOs)

WELTERWEIGHTS
WEIGHT LIMIT: 147 LBS

- C **FLOYD MAYWEATHER JR.** U.S. | 45-0-0 (26 KOs)
- 1. **TIMOTHY BRADLEY** U.S. | 31-0-0 (12 KOs)
- 2. **JUAN MANUEL MARQUEZ** Mexico | 55-7-1 (40 KOs)
- 3. **MANNY PACQUIAO** Philippines | 55-5-2 (38 KOs)
- 4. **KELL BROOK** U.K. | 31-0-0 (21 KOs)
- 5. **DEVON ALEXANDER** U.S. | 25-1-0 (14 KOs)
- 6. **ROBERT GUERRERO** U.S. | 31-2-1 (18 KOs)
- 7. **ADRIEN BRONER** U.S. | 27-0-0 (22 KOs)
- 8. **KEITH THURMAN** U.S. | 21-0-0 (19 KOs)
- 9. **PAULIE MALIGNAGGI** U.S. | 32-5-0 (7 KOs)
- 10. **MARCOS MAIDANA** Argentina | 34-3-0 (31 KOs)

JR. WELTERWEIGHTS
WEIGHT LIMIT: 140 LBS

- C **DANNY GARCIA** U.S. | 27-0-0 (16 KOs)
- 1. **LUCAS MATTHYSSE** Argentina | 34-3-0 (32 KOs)
- 2. **RUSLAN PROVODNIKOV** Russia | 23-2-0 (16 KOs)
- 3. **AMIR KHAN** U.K. | 28-3-0 (19 KOs)
- 4. **MIKE ALVARADO** U.S. | 34-2-0 (23 KOs)
- 5. **LAMONT PETERSON** U.S. | 31-2-1 (16 KOs)
- 6. **ZAB JUDAH** U.S. | 42-8-0 (29 KOs)
- 7. **BRANDON RIOS** U.S. | 31-2-1 (23 KOs)
- 8. **KHABIB ALLAKHVERDIEV** Russia | 19-0-0 (9 KOs)
- 9. **DIERRY JEAN** Canada | 25-0-0 (17 KOs)
- 10. **VIKTOR POSTOL** Ukraine | 24-0-0 (10 KOs)

LIGHTWEIGHTS
WEIGHT LIMIT: 135 LBS

- C **VACANT**
- 1. **ADRIEN BRONER** U.S. | 27-0-0 (22 KOs)
- 2. **MIGUEL VAZQUEZ** Mexico | 33-3-0 (13 KOs)
- 3. **RICHAR ABRIL** Cuba | 18-3-1 (8 KOs)
- 4. **RICKY BURNS** U.K. | 36-2-1 (11 KOs)
- 5. **RAYMUNDO BELTRAN** Mexico | 28-6-1 (17 KOs)
- 6. **ANTONIO DEMARCO** Mexico | 29-3-1 (22 KOs)
- 7. **SHARIF BOGERE** Uganda | 23-1-0 (15 KOs)
- 8. **KEVIN MITCHELL** U.K. | 35-2-0 (25 KOs)
- 9. **DANIEL ESTRADA** Mexico | 31-2-1 (23 KOs)
- 10. **TERENCE CRAWFORD** U.S. | 22-0-0 (16 KOs)

JR. LIGHTWEIGHTS
WEIGHT LIMIT: 130 LBS

- C **VACANT**
- 1. **TAKASHI UCHIYAMA** Japan | 20-0-1 (17 KOs)
- 2. **MIKEY GARCIA** U.S. | 33-0-0 (28 KOs)
- 3. **ROMAN MARTINEZ** Puerto Rico | 27-2-2 (16 KOs)
- 4. **ARGENIS MENDEZ** Dominican Rep. | 21-2-1 (11 KOs)
- 5. **JUAN CARLOS BURGOS** Mexico | 30-1-2 (20 KOs)
- 6. **DIEGO MAGDALENO** U.S. | 24-1-0 (9 KOs)
- 7. **TAKASHI MIURA** Japan | 26-2-2 (19 KOs)
- 8. **TAKAHIRO AO** Japan | 25-3-1 (12 KOs)
- 9. **WILL TOMLINSON** Australia | 21-0-1 (12 KOs)
- 10. **SERGIO THOMPSON** Mexico | 27-3-0 (25 KOs)

FEATHERWEIGHTS
WEIGHT LIMIT: 126 LBS

- C **VACANT**
- 1. **CHRIS JOHN** Indonesia | 48-0-3 (22 KOs)
- 2. **JHONNY GONZALEZ** Mexico | 55-8-0 (47 KOs)
- 3. **ORLANDO SALIDO** Mexico | 40-12-2 (28 KOs)
- 4. **ABNER MARES** Mexico | 26-1-1 (14 KOs)
- 5. **EVGENY GRADOVICH** Russia | 18-0-0 (9 KOs)
- 6. **DANIEL PONCE DE LEON** Mexico | 45-5-0 (35 KOs)
- 7. **NICHOLAS WALTERS** Jamaica | 23-0-0 (19 KOs)
- 8. **BILLY DIB** Australia | 36-3-0 (21 KOs)
- 9. **JAVIER FORTUNA** Dominican Rep. | 22-0-1 (16 KOs)
- 10. **NONITO DONAIRE** Philippines | 32-2-0 (21 KOs)

JR. FEATHERWEIGHTS
WEIGHT LIMIT: 122 LBS

- C **GUILLERMO RIGONDEAUX** Cuba | 12-0-0 (8 KOs)
- 1. **CARL FRAMPTON** U.K. | 17-0-0 (12 KOs)
- 2. **JEFFREY MATHEBULA** South Africa | 27-4-2 (14 KOs)
- 3. **LEO SANTA CRUZ** U.S. | 25-0-1 (15 KOs)
- 4. **VIC DARCHINYAN** Armenia | 39-6-1 (28 KOs)
- 5. **KIKO MARTINEZ** Spain | 29-4-0 (21 KOs)
- 6. **VICTOR TERRAZAS** Mexico | 37-3-1 (21 KOs)
- 7. **SCOTT QUIGG** U.K. | 27-0-2 (20 KOs)
- 8. **CRISTIAN MIJARES** Mexico | 48-7-2 (23 KOs)
- 9. **JHONATAN ROMERO** Colombia | 23-1-0 (12 KOs)
- 10. **FERNANDO MONTIEL** Mexico | 50-4-2 (38 KOs)

HOW OUR RATINGS ARE COMPILED

Championship vacancies can be filled in the following two ways: 1. THE RING's Nos. 1 and 2 contenders fight one another; 2. If the Nos. 1 and 2 contenders chose not to fight one another and either of them fights No. 3, No. 4 or No. 5, the winner may be awarded THE RING belt if the Editorial Board deems the contenders worthy.

A champion can lose his belt in six situations: 1. The Champion loses a fight in the weight class in which he is champion; 2. The Champion moves to another weight class; 3. The Champion does not schedule a fight in any weight class for 18 months; 4. The Champion does not schedule a fight at his championship weight for 18 months (even if he fights at another weight); 5. The Champion does not schedule a fight with a Top-5 contender from any weight class for two years; 6. The Champion retires.

THE RING Ratings Chairman Chuck Giampa considers input from the Ratings Panel of boxing journalists from around the world but has final say on all changes. That applies to both the pound-for-pound and divisional ratings.

Records provided by boxrec.com

RATINGS

BANTAMWEIGHTS
WEIGHT LIMIT: 118 LBS

C VACANT

1. **ANSELMO MORENO**
   Panama | 34-2-1 (12 KOs)
2. **SHINSUKE YAMANAKA**
   Japan | 19-0-2 (14 KOs)
3. **KOKI KAMEDA**
   Japan | 32-1-0 (17 KOs)
4. **MALCOLM TUNACAO**
   Philippines | 33-3-3 (20 KOs)
5. **HUGO RUIZ**
   Mexico | 33-2-0 (29 KOs)
6. **JOSEPH AGBEKO**
   Ghana | 29-4-0 (22 KOs)
7. **JAMIE MCDONNELL**
   U.K. | 22-2-1 (10 KOs)
8. **JULIO CEJA**
   Mexico | 25-1-0 (23 KOs)
9. **TOMOKI KAMEDA**
   Japan | 28-0-0 (18 KOs)
10. **PAULUS AMBUNDA**
    Namibia | 20-1-0 (10 KOs)

JR. BANTAMWEIGHTS
WEIGHT LIMIT: 115 LBS

C VACANT

1. **OMAR NARVAEZ**
   Argentina | 40-1-2 (21 KOs)
2. **JUAN CARLOS SANCHEZ JR.**
   Mexico | 17-1-1 (9 KOs)
3. **CARLOS CUADRAS**
   Mexico | 28-0-0 (23 KOs)
4. **SRISAKET SOR RUNGVISAI**
   Thailand | 23-3-1 (21 KOs)
5. **TEPPARITH SINGWANCHA**
   Thailand | 24-3-0 (14 KOs)
6. **RYO AKAHO**
   Japan | 21-1-2 (14 KOs)
7. **ARTHUR VILLANUEVA**
   Philippines | 24-0-0 (14 KOs)
8. **OLEYDONG SITHSAMERCHAI**
   Thailand | 51-1-1 (17 KOs)
9. **FELIPE ORUCUTA**
   Mexico | 28-2-0 (23 KOs)
10. **DAIKI KAMEDA**
    Japan | 29-3-0 (18 KOs)

FLYWEIGHTS
WEIGHT LIMIT: 112 LBS

C AKIRA YAEGASHI
Japan | 18-3-0 (9 KOs)

1. **ROMAN GONZALEZ**
   Nicaragua | 37-0-0 (31 KOs)
2. **JUAN FRANCISCO ESTRADA**
   Mexico | 25-2-0 (18 KOs)
3. **BRIAN VILORIA**
   U.S. | 32-4-0 (19 KOs)
4. **EDGAR SOSA**
   Mexico | 49-7-0 (29 KOs)
5. **MORUTI MTHALANE**
   S. Africa | 29-2-0 (20 KOs)
6. **JUAN CARLOS RETECO**
   Argentina | 32-1-0 (17 KOs)
7. **TOSHIYUKI IGARASHI**
   Japan | 18-2-1 (11 KOs)
8. **GIOVANI SEGURA**
   Mexico | 31-3-1 (27 KOs)
9. **HERNAN MARQUEZ**
   Mexico | 36-4-0 (26 KOs)
10. **MILAN MELINDO**
    Philippines | 29-1-0 (12 KOs)

JR. FLYWEIGHTS
WEIGHT LIMIT: 108 LBS

C VACANT

1. **DONNIE NIETES**
   Philippines | 31-1-4 (17 KOs)
2. **MOISES FUENTES**
   Mexico | 19-1-1 (10 KOs)
3. **KAZUTO IOKA**
   Japan | 13-0-0 (9 KOs)
4. **ADRIAN HERNANDEZ**
   Mexico | 28-2-1 (17 KOs)
5. **JOHNRIEL CASIMERO**
   Philippines | 19-2-0 (11 KOs)
6. **PEDRO GUEVARA**
   Mexico | 20-1-1 (13 KOs)
7. **FELIX ALVARADO**
   Nicaragua | 18-0-0 (15 KOs)
8. **ALBERTO ROSSEL**
   Peru | 31-8-0 (13 KOs)
9. **NAOYA INOUE**
   Japan | 4-0-0 (3 KOs)
10. **PAIPHAROB KOKIETGYM**
    Thailand | 21-0-0 (16 KOs)

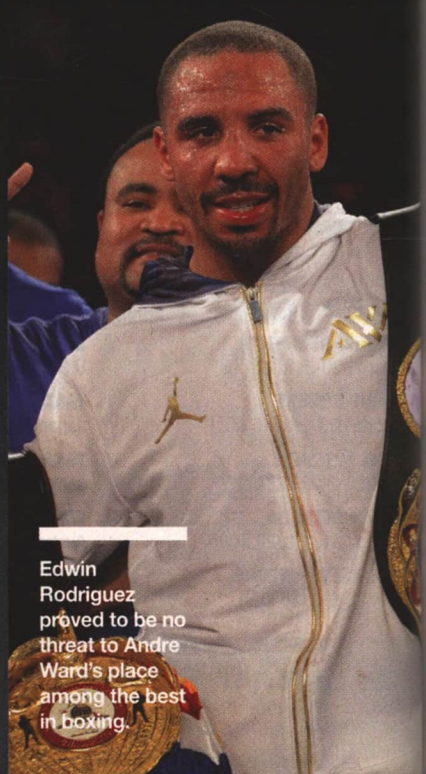
STRAWWEIGHTS
WEIGHT LIMIT: 105 LBS

C VACANT

1. **WANHENG MENAYOTHIN**
   Thailand | 31-0-0 (10 KOs)
2. **HEKKIE BUDLER**
   South Africa | 24-1-0 (7 KOs)
3. **XIONG ZHAO ZHONG**
   China | 21-4-1 (11 KOs)
4. **DENVER CUELLO**
   Philippines | 33-5-6 (21 KOs)
5. **KATSUNARI TAKAYAMA**
   Japan | 25-6-0 (10 KOs)
6. **RYO MIYAZAKI**
   Japan | 20-0-3 (11 KOs)
7. **CARLOS BUITRAGO**
   Nicaragua | 27-0-0 (16 KOs)
8. **MERLITO SABILLO**
   Philippines | 23-0-0 (12 KOs)
9. **JESUS SILVESTRE**
   Mexico | 27-4-0 (20 KOs)
10. **RYUJI HARA**
    Japan | 16-0-0 (10 KOs)

POUND FOR POUND

1. **FLOYD MAYWEATHER JR.**
   U.S. | 45-0-0 (26 KOs) | WELTERWEIGHT/ JR. MIDDLEWEIGHT
2. **ANDRE WARD**
   U.S. | 27-0-0 (14 KOs) | SUPER MIDDLEWEIGHT
3. **TIMOTHY BRADLEY**
   U.S. | 31-0-0 (12 KOs) | WELTERWEIGHT
4. **WLADIMIR KLITSCHKO**
   Ukraine | 61-3-0 (51 KOs) | HEAVYWEIGHT
5. **SERGIO MARTINEZ**
   Argentina | 51-2-2 (28 KOs) | MIDDLEWEIGHT
6. **JUAN MANUEL MARQUEZ**
   Mexico | 55-7-1 (40 KOs) | WELTERWEIGHT
7. **MANNY PACQUIAO**
   Philippines | 55-5-2 (38 KOs) | WELTERWEIGHT
8. **ADRIEN BRONER**
   U.S. | 27-0-0 (22 KOs) | LIGHTWEIGHT/WELTERWEIGHT
9. **SAUL ALVAREZ**
   Mexico | 42-1-1 (30 KOs) | JR. MIDDLEWEIGHT
10. **GUILLERMO RIGONDEAUX**
    Cuba | 12-0-0 (8 KOs) | JR. FEATHERWEIGHT



Edwin Rodriguez proved to be no threat to Andre Ward's place among the best in boxing.

THE RING POLICY ON RATED BOXERS WHO TEST POSITIVE FOR PERFORMANCE-ENHANCING DRUGS

THE RING will remove from its ratings any rated boxer — including a champion — if such boxer at some point undergoes drug testing (Olympic-style or otherwise) and that boxer tests positive for a performance-enhancing drug.

In the event that a boxer has undergone testing in which the boxer provides two samples ("A" and "B") and the boxer's "A" and subsequent "B" samples test positive for a performance-enhancing drug or if his "A" sample tests positive and he waives his right to have the "B" sample tested then t boxer shall immediately be removed from the ratings.

A boxer whose "A" sample tested positive and is awaiting the results of h "B" sample will not be allowed to fight for a championship or rise in the rating

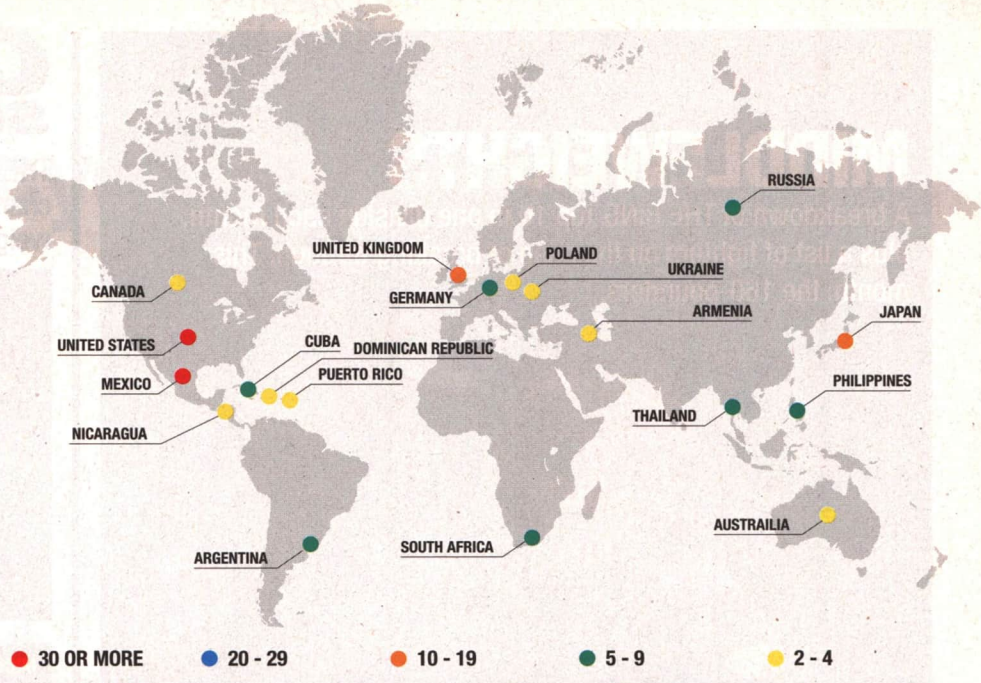
A boxer who is removed because of a positive test will have the opportun to earn his way back into the ratings after any suspension period is complete

A boxer who is dropped also may be reinstated if the testing agen subsequently reverses its decision or a court of competent jurisdiction fin that the test result was invalid.

RATED FIGHTERS BY COUNTRY

UNITED STATES	34 *	▲3
MEXICO	30	▲1
UNITED KINGDOM	17	▼1
JAPAN	15	▼1
PHILIPPINES	9	▼1
RUSSIA	8	▼1
ARGENTINA	5	
CUBA	5	
GERMANY	5	
SOUTH AFRICA	5	
THAILAND	5	▲1
CANADA	4	
UKRAINE	4	
AUSTRALIA	3	
NICARAGUA	3	
POLAND	3	
ARMENIA	2	
DOMINICAN REPUBLIC	2	▼1
PUERTO RICO	2	
BULGARIA	1	
CAMEROON	1	
CHINA	1	
COLOMBIA	1	
CONGO	1	
DENMARK	1	
FINLAND	1	
GHANA	1	
INDONESIA	1	
JAMAICA	1	
KAZAKHSTAN	1	
MALAWI	1	
NAMIBIA	1	
PANAMA	1	▼1
PERU	1	
ROMANIA	1	
SPAIN	1	
UGANDA	1	
UZBEKISTAN	1	

** Includes two ratings for Floyd Mayweather Jr. (junior middleweight and welterweight) and Adrien Broner (welterweight and lightweight).*



EUROPE VS. U.S. VS. MEXICO/ASIA

If we break down the divisions into three parts – heaviest, middle and lightest – we see that each category is loosely dominated by fighters from different places. The Europeans control Group 1, the U.S. Group 2 and the Mexicans and Asians Group 3. Here's how it breaks down.

DIVISION	EUROPE	U.S.	MEXICO/ASIA
HEAVYWEIGHTS	6	2	1
CRUISERWEIGHTS	8	0	0
LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHTS	5	3	0
SUPER MIDDLEWEIGHTS	6	2	1
MIDDLEWEIGHTS	5	2	2
JUNIOR MIDDLEWEIGHTS	0	7	2
WELTERWEIGHTS	1	7	2
JUNIOR WELTERWEIGHTS	4	5	0
LIGHTWEIGHTS	2	2	4
JUNIOR LIGHTWEIGHTS	0	2	5
FEATHERWEIGHTS	1	0	6
JUNIOR FEATHERWEIGHTS	3	1	4
BANTAMWEIGHTS	1	0	6
JUNIOR BANTAMWEIGHT	0	0	9
FLYWEIGHTS	0	1	7
JUNIOR FLYWEIGHTS	0	0	8
STRAWWEIGHTS	0	0	8
TOTAL	42	34	65

***Note:** Floyd Mayweather Jr. and Adrien Broner are each rated in two divisions.*

RATINGS BY CONTINENT

Every continent, with the obvious exception of Antarctica, has fighters rated by THE RING. Here's how it breaks down.

82 NORTH AMERICA

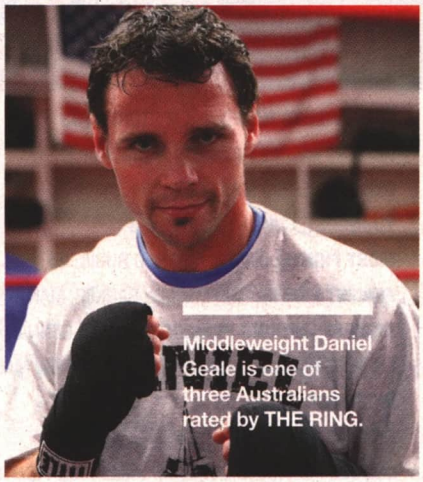
42 EUROPE

35 ASIA

11 AFRICA

7 SOUTH AMERICA

3 AUSTRALIA



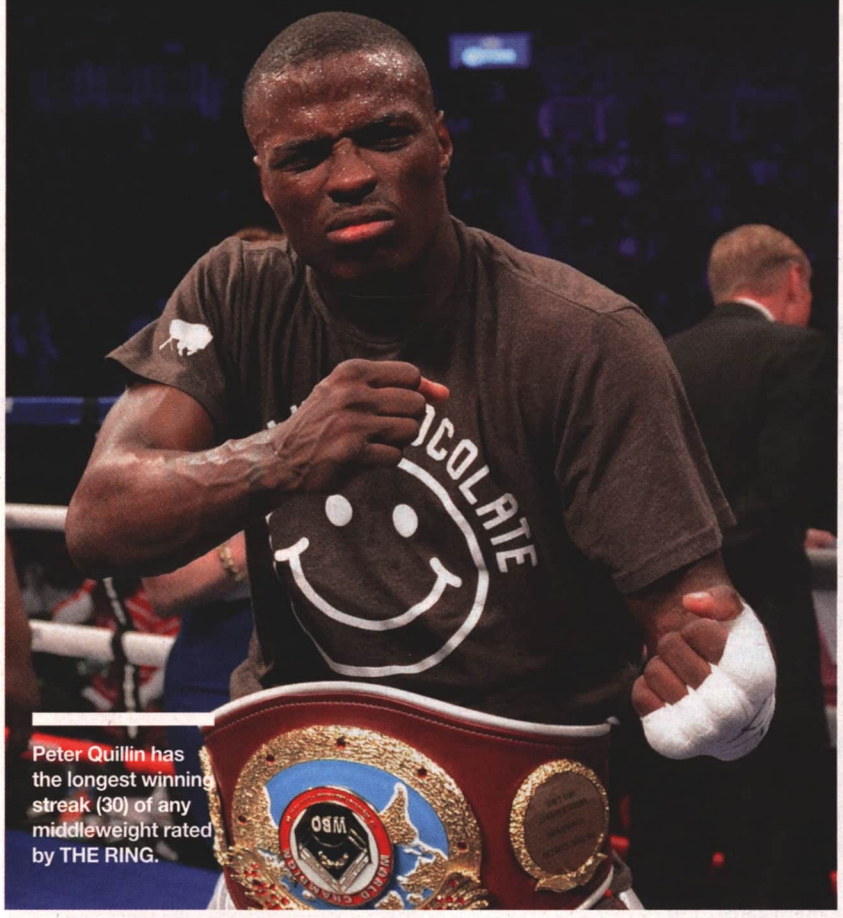
Middleweight Daniel Geale is one of three Australians rated by THE RING.

***Note:** Several countries straddle two continents. They were placed in the continent in which the majority of their population lives for the purposes of this chart.*

FOCUS ON . . .

MIDDLEWEIGHTS

A breakdown of THE RING Top 10 in one division each month, plus a list of fighters on the cusp of breaking through. This month: the 160-pounders.



Peter Quillin has the longest winning streak (30) of any middleweight rated by THE RING.

MOST WEEKS RATED: FELIX STURM **533**

FEWEST WEEKS RATED: MAX BURSAK **5**

OLDEST: SERGIO MARTINEZ **38**

YOUNGEST: CURTIS STEVENS **28**

MOST FIGHTS: MARCO ANTONIO RUBIO **65**

FEWEST FIGHTS: (TIE) DARREN BARKER, MARTIN MURRAY **27**

HIGHEST WINNING PERCENTAGE: (TIE) GENNADY GOLOVKIN, PETER QUILLIN **100 PERCENT**

LOWEST WINNING PERCENTAGE: MATTHEW MACKLIN **85.3 PERCENT**

MOST KOS: RUBIO **50**

FEWEST KOS: MURRAY **11**

LONGEST WINNING STREAK: QUILLIN **30 FIGHTS**

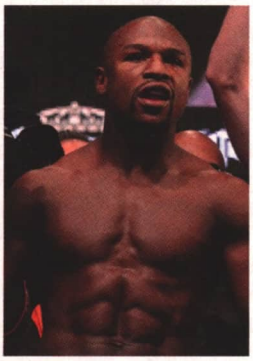
ON THE POUND-FOR-POUND LIST: MARTINEZ **NO. 5**

TITLEHOLDERS IN THE TOP 10: MARTINEZ (RING, WBC), GOLOVKIN (WBA), BARKER (IBF) AND QUILLIN (WBO)

ON THE CUSP (IN ALPHABETICAL ORDER): DANNY JACOBS, MATT KOROBOV, GILBERTO RAMIREZ, GABRIEL ROSADO AND BILLY JOE SAUNDERS.

OLD SCHOOL 8

THE RING staff members' current champions in the original eight weight classes.



Floyd Mayweather Jr. is on everyone's list, old school and new.

MICHAEL ROSENTHAL RING MAGAZINE EDITOR

HEAVYWEIGHT: WLADIMIR KLITSCHKO
LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHT: ANDRE WARD
MIDDLEWEIGHT: SERGIO MARTINEZ
WELTERWEIGHT: FLOYD MAYWEATHER JR.
LIGHTWEIGHT: MIKEY GARCIA
FEATHERWEIGHT: GUILLERMO RIGONDEAUX
BANTAMWEIGHT: ANSELMO MORENO
FLYWEIGHT: ROMAN GONZALEZ

DOUG FISCHER RINGTV.COM EDITOR

HEAVYWEIGHT: WLADIMIR KLITSCHKO
LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHT: ANDRE WARD
MIDDLEWEIGHT: GENNADY GOLOVKIN
WELTERWEIGHT: FLOYD MAYWEATHER JR.
LIGHTWEIGHT: MIGUEL VAZQUEZ
FEATHERWEIGHT: CHRIS JOHN
BANTAMWEIGHT: ANSELMO MORENO
FLYWEIGHT: ROMAN GONZALEZ

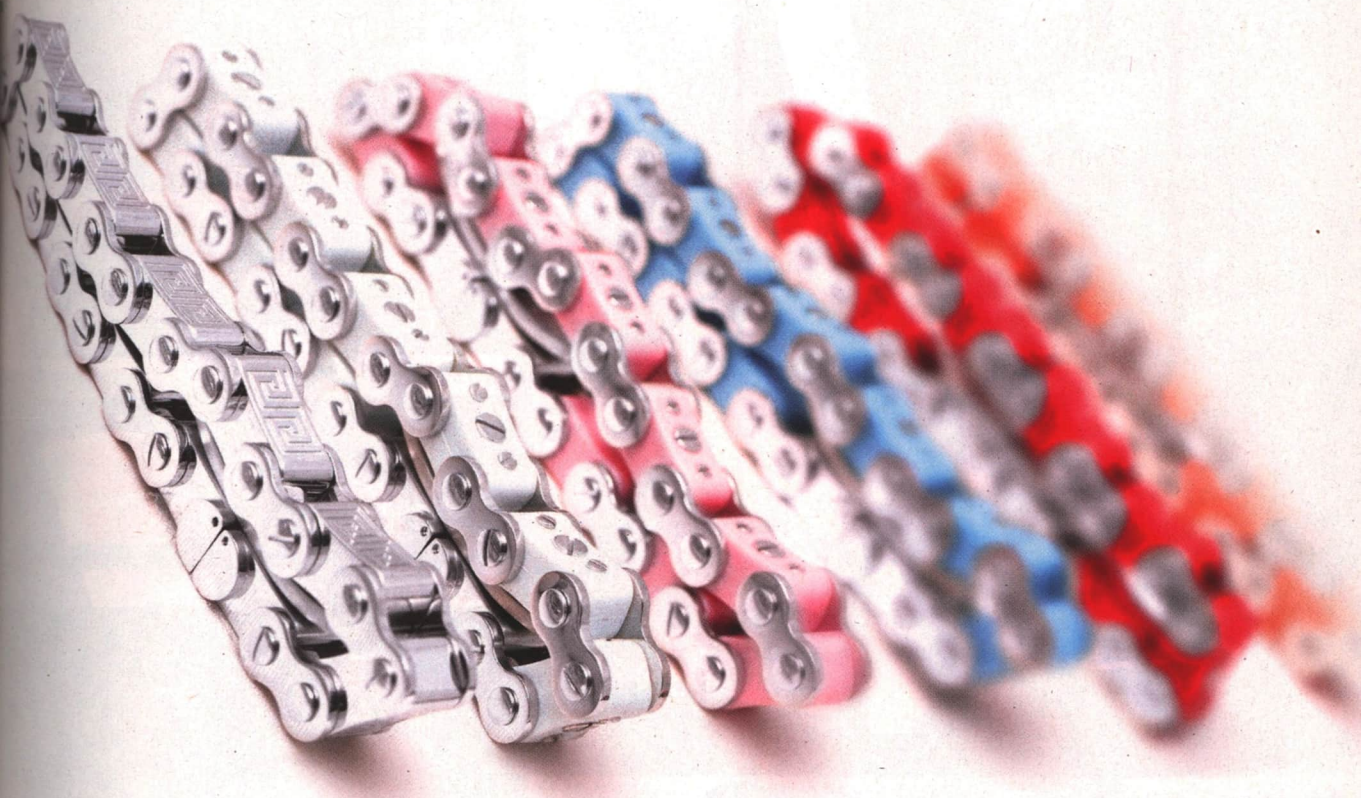
LEM SATTERFIELD STAFF WRITER

HEAVYWEIGHT: WLADIMIR KLITSCHKO
LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHT: ANDRE WARD
MIDDLEWEIGHT: SERGIO MARTINEZ
WELTERWEIGHT: FLOYD MAYWEATHER JR.
LIGHTWEIGHT: MIKEY GARCIA
FEATHERWEIGHT: CHRIS JOHN
BANTAMWEIGHT: ANSELMO MORENO
FLYWEIGHT: ROMAN GONZALEZ

Note: *This is how the weights break down: Heavyweight includes cruiserweight, light heavyweight includes super middleweight, all divisions middleweight through flyweight include the "junior" versions, and flyweight also includes strawweight.*

IceLink

Bicycle Bracelets



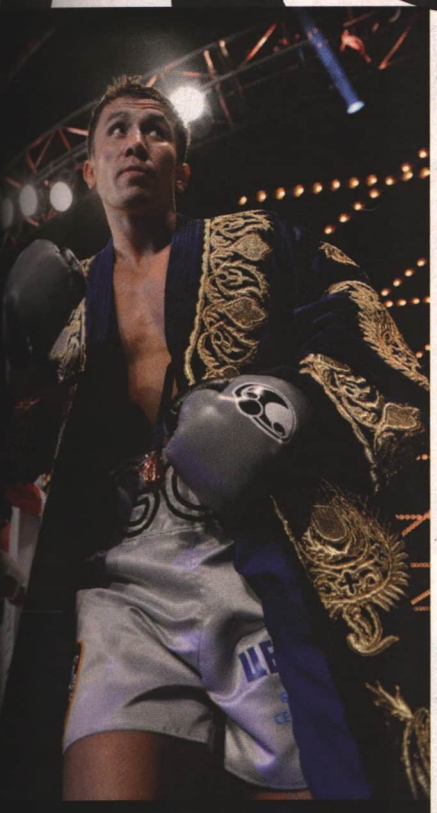
Now available at

★macy's

available at the IceLink Flagship Boutique - 666 N Kilkea Dr. - Los Angeles, CA 90048 - 323-782-8666 - www.icelinkwatch.com

ONA

ROLL



Boxing fans saw it all in 2013 – big events, great fights, great performances, stunning upsets, exciting knockouts and the rise of many next-generation stars.

2013 WAS AN EXCELLENT YEAR FOR BOXING. EXPECT THE SAME FOR 2014, PARTICULARLY IN LIGHT OF SO MANY PROMISING YOUNG FIGHTERS.

By **Gareth A Davies**

Few would question the assertion that 2013 was a banner year for boxing, with the rise of several young, highly promising fighters and the emergence of a group of Eastern European standouts plying their trade in the United States.

Moreover, the last 12 months were underpinned by a trail of thrillers from London to Manchester, Las Vegas to Macau.

What emerged in the bigger picture was the rivalry between U.S. broadcasting giants HBO and Showtime, the latter having emerged as a force again through the signing of pound-for-pound king Floyd Mayweather Jr. for a half dozen fights.

You might reason that the television war has been one of the reasons for the success in 2013. Next year, though, could be the acid test if we are to see the best face the best.

Yes, two words: Pacquiao and Mayweather. The latter was peerless in 2013.

More on 'Money' himself later, but the rivalry between the 'Big Two' promoters – Golden Boy Promotions with Showtime and Top Rank with HBO – could be a political and business minefield after Manny Pacquiao's late, late show against Brandon Rios.

But casting the net back over the last year, while peering into the crystal ball with the future in our sights, there is much to enjoy in a group of emerging talents at the elite level: Mikey and Danny Garcia (not related, of course); Canelo Alvarez; Juan Francisco Estrada; Adrien Broner and a latecomer to wider attention, George Groves. They are the next generation. The early to mid-20s pack, the division changers.

Young in prominence, though not all young in age, three Eastern Europeans commanded our attention: Kazakhstani Gennady Golovkin, Ukrainian Vasyl Lomachenko and Russian Sergey Kovalev. A triumvirate to watch and consider closely.

2013 was a good year for Olympians, too.

There was a time when Olympic success ran parallel with professional prowess later on. That dipped for some time, but it's beginning to return. Lomachenko looks like a world beater already. There's also Guillermo Rigondeaux, whose triumph of hit-but-don't-be-hit boxing over Nonito Donaire could be argued as the performance of the year. And Zou Shiming is set to ignite a new market.

AIBA, the world governing body for amateur sport, adopted a policy of removing the headgear from its athletes, and in doing so aligned its code more closely with that of the pros – a

Guillermo Rigondeaux (upper left, on left) surprised Nonito Donaire, KO artist Marcos Maidana (upper right, on left) made Josesito Lopez another victim, and Brandon Rios (below left) and Mike Alvarado gave fans another entertaining brawl.

move to be applauded. Bringing in headgear in the first place was a big mistake.

But in real terms, 2013 was a banner year for actual fights. Thrillers. All action show-stoppers. They came thick and fast. And brutal, too.

Timothy Bradley's 12-round unanimous decision against Ruslan Provodnikov, Mike Alvarado's result in the same fashion against Brandon Rios, two fights involving Carl Froch – the British fighter's unanimous decision in the rematch with Mikkel Kessler and the contest with Groves until it was prematurely stopped by referee Howard Foster in the ninth round – Marcos Maidana's sixth-round TKO victory over Josesito Lopez, and seemingly most fights involving the aforementioned Eastern European stars.

Some members of the old guard also remain for 2014. Sitting alongside Mayweather and Pacquiao on the pound-for-pound list are Bradley and Juan Manuel Marquez.

The names we knew as the greats in the sport in this era lost no momentum in 2013. Indeed, Mayweather was without equal, his two contests with Robert Guerrero and Canelo Alvarez marking him out, clearly, as boxing's No. 1 practitioner in the Sweet Science.

The second of those fights, on Sept. 13, was a spectacular success as a promotion. Even the weigh-in defied belief, with the MGM Grand Garden Arena full and alive with song and emotion. The next night, Mayweather's performance was in keeping with his promises.

Pacquiao returned with aplomb, and as stated earlier, only he and Bradley – in the Top 10 pound for pound, in the same weight division – have yet to step in with Mayweather. We pray together. Because those fights could take place in 2014. As could a second meeting for Pacquiao-Bradley.

EMERGING TALENT

In America, there are rising stars. Mikey Garcia – steeped in family boxing history – started 2013 with a perfect record. He ended it with one, too.

Victory in January, flooring WBO featherweight champion Orlando Salido three times, saw him complete a one-sided technical decision win. Job done. Five months later, Garcia took out Juan Manuel Lopez in four rounds. A highly polished demolition.

Yet Garcia was arguably even more impressive in November, moving up to 130 pounds to defeat WBO junior lightweight champion Roman Martinez. Down late in the first round, the 25-year-old showed he can overcome adversity to TKO the Puerto Rican in Round 8. Unbeaten in 33 contests, and with two world titles in two divisions inside a calendar year, he sits at the top table heading into 2014.

So, too, Danny Garcia. Considered one of the 2012 contenders, 2013 was another stellar year for the 25-year-old junior welterweight. He maintained his standing with RING, WBC and WBA 140-pound titles.

He ventured into the ring twice in 2013. After beating Zab Judah comfortably on points, he took on Lucas Matthysse, one of the world's most concussive punchers, as chief support to the Mayweather vs. Alvarez pay-per-view event. In a fight worthy of a headliner in itself, Garcia out-boxed the dangerous Argentine, closing Matthysse's right eye and emerging with a convincing unanimous-decision win. It was impressive. He was clean, clinical and raised his stock. He also moved closer to a shot at Mayweather.

A case could be made for Juan Francisco Estrada. In 2012, at junior flyweight, he lost to WBA champ Roman Gonzalez. It was a closer fight than most challengers have given Gonzalez but still a fairly one-sided loss.

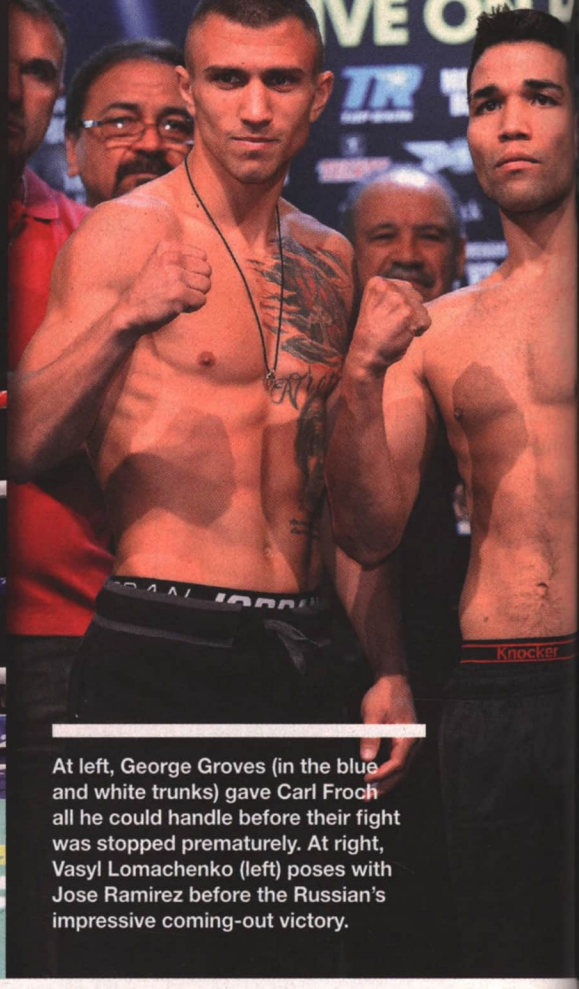
Struggling to make weight, Estrada moved up to flyweight in 2013 and has looked astounding. In April he went to China and beat veteran WBO and WBA champion Brian Viloria. It was scored a split decision. In reality, he won it comfortably. In July, Estrada handed top-rated contender Milan Melindo the first loss of his career, a one-sided unanimous decision. Right now, Estrada is the top 112-pound fighter in the world. It will be fascinating to see how the 23-year-old develops as an elite talent in 2014.

Then there's the granite men from the East.

Golovkin had an astounding 2013. GGG is on the tip of every tongue. Most want to see him in against Sergio Martinez, with alacrity.

But what a year for the middleweight, 4-0. In January, Gabriel Rosado, TKO Round 7. In March, he destroyed Nobuhiro Ishida by the third round. In June, he blew away Matthew Macklin with a body shot, and remember how Macklin fared against Martinez? Then, in November, he took Curtis Stevens on in the power department, and busted him up, too.

Light heavyweight Kovalev finished 2013 as one of the most feared punchers in boxing. Bing, bang, boom, against



At left, George Groves (in the blue and white trunks) gave Carl Froch all he could handle before their fight was stopped prematurely. At right, Vasyl Lomachenko (left) poses with Jose Ramirez before the Russian's impressive coming-out victory.

former world champion Gabriel Campillo – Round 3 TKO – then Cornelius White in the same fashion. In August, the same result, as Kovalev came to Wales and took the WBO title from Nathan Cleverly. This time in Round 4.

The third of the former Soviet Bloc fighters, Lomachenko, could yet surpass the view of many that Rigondeaux is the best Olympic boxer to cross to the paid ranks in the modern era. It was mesmerizing to watch the Ukrainian at the London Olympics in 2012, yet his debut in 2013, against a boxer with 28 fights to his name in Jose Ramirez, defied logic. It was just incredible – poise, balance, movement, confidence. It's difficult to find the words to do the young man justice.

We are genuinely blessed at present with emerging talent.

ON TV

The last 12 months were also highly significant in Europe with the solidifying of Eddie Hearn's Matchroom Sport stable in the U.K. with Sky Sports. They have created a powerful alliance.

The promotional tussle for Matchroom Sports is with the evergreen Frank Warren. But Hearn has titleholders in Froch, Ricky Burns, Darren Barker (at time of going to press) and Scott Quigg, with Kell Brook lining up for a welterweight world title challenge in 2014.

Then there are the fast-emerging Olympic gold medalists – lightweight Luke Campbell and heavyweight Anthony Joshua. Campbell already looks fairly accomplished; Joshua is still raw, yet soaking up knowledge like a sponge.

Indeed, Britain has more fighters in the RING's ratings (17) than any country other than powerhouses United States (34) and Mexico (30).

So, to the Showtime and HBO rivalry. Those who go back that far will recall it has been both long and fierce. HBO announced its "divorce" from Golden Boy in 2013. That was precipitated, of course, by Mayweather's move, plus his promotional affiliation with Oscar De La Hoya's company.

It meant a move, too, for other fighters – Bernard Hopkins, Amir Khan, Alvarez, Broner. Lock stock and two smokin' barrels. But it was Mayweather who made Showtime a force once more in its up-and-down history in boxing TV. It's worth recalling that the rivalry between HBO Boxing and Showtime began in the '80s and went ballistic in the '90s before HBO gained complete dominance.

The competition between the networks has been a fillip for television viewers of boxing. HBO has thus spread its net to other promoters, but the key is whether great contests between the best boxers signed to the rival networks will materialize.

The test in 2014 is whether an agreement can be reached to bring Mayweather and Pacquiao together. Public demand and the prospect of raising money for Typhoon Haiyan in the Philippines could make the bout a reality, which would be the cause of much rejoicing.

Organizers faced the same scenario with the desire to bring Lennox Lewis and Mike Tyson together in a ring in 2002. They got there. Showtime and HBO collaborated. And it became, of course, the highest-grossing event in pay-per-view history at the time, generating $106.9 million from 1.95 million buys in the U.S.

Grudges need to be put on hold, enmities set to one side for perhaps three months. If they can do it, ker-ching for the casino, the fighters, the promoters, the television companies, and maybe even some typhoon victims.

Win-win-win-win-win, with one loser.

Outside the United States, the model is different. Subscription is king, with perhaps a handful of pay-per-view events. Sky Box Office returned to pay-per-view boxing in 2013, for two Carl Froch fights. Both were a success.

The second event, Froch vs. Groves, now begs a return next summer, probably in a football stadium, promoter Hearn is thinking. And he's right. It's also a fight which could gain leverage with any of the major U.S. broadcasters. Had it gone on, and not been stopped prematurely, Froch-Groves could have been a Fight of the Year contender.

But leafing through *Jack Solomons' International Boxing Annual* of 1953 – written 60 years ago – in my library is a small editorial about boxing on television. Solomons was the foremost promoter in Europe at the time. The annual carried Nat Fleischer's world ratings from THE RING Magazine every year.

The editorial spoke of the differences of television coverage of boxing in the U.K. and the U.S.: "Sponsored television in this country has not yet arrived and the fees paid by The British Broadcasting Corporation are very small compared with those in America.

"Television of boxing championships in this country is sure to come. Television is yet in its infancy, but it is making good progress within the limits of its income, and the time will come, I think, when boxing will need television.

"Television is said to be killing boxing in America, but it is a fact that five of the seven reigning champions as the year closes come from that part of the world, if one includes Kid Gavilan, the welterweight champion who although coming from Cuba has done most of his fighting in the States."

You see, nothing has really changed. The same concerns, in a different guise. Boxing isn't dying. It was in a trough. We are out of it. And there are always new issues to contend with.

Ask the octogenarian promoter Don Chargin, who spotted Canelo Alvarez, what he thinks.

"It has always been about personalities," he told me with that voice of his like crushed coal. "It wasn't always the best boxers, it was those with an X-factor that put butts in seats."

Today, substitute butts for thumbs on buttons or credit cards into phone lines for pay-per-view. But there are around 15 to 20 X-factor fighters out there right now.

This was RING contributor Thomas Hauser's take on SecondsOut.com in 2010, a time when HBO was struggling with its boxing strategy: "Boxing is growing increasingly popular in other parts of the world. But in the United States, it's being strangled by a bottleneck in the pipeline that's supposed to bring the sport's most compelling fights to its followers but doesn't.

"By way of analogy, Howard Stern lost much of his audience when he left terrestrial radio for Sirius. The move isolated him from the general public. Boxing has lost much of its relevance for the same reason."

Hauser had reasoned then, and I agree with the sentiment, that in the long run – now, in essence – HBO's "disengagement might actually be good for boxing. It would force promoters to be promoters again, spur ingenuity in the marketplace, and maybe even get the sport back on broadcast television."

Well, that is what we saw develop in 2013: a new landscape; competition within promotional ranks to have "meaningful" fights, and competition *between* the two broadcasting houses. That's business.

And this is never the boxing *game*. It's the boxing *business*. We've seen these two heavyweight juggernauts go to war. But we've seen them do business before. There is a lot out there to go around. And the prospects for trade in 2014, in and out of the ring, look better than ever. On so many fronts.

Gareth A Davies is Boxing Correspondent for *The London Telegraph*.

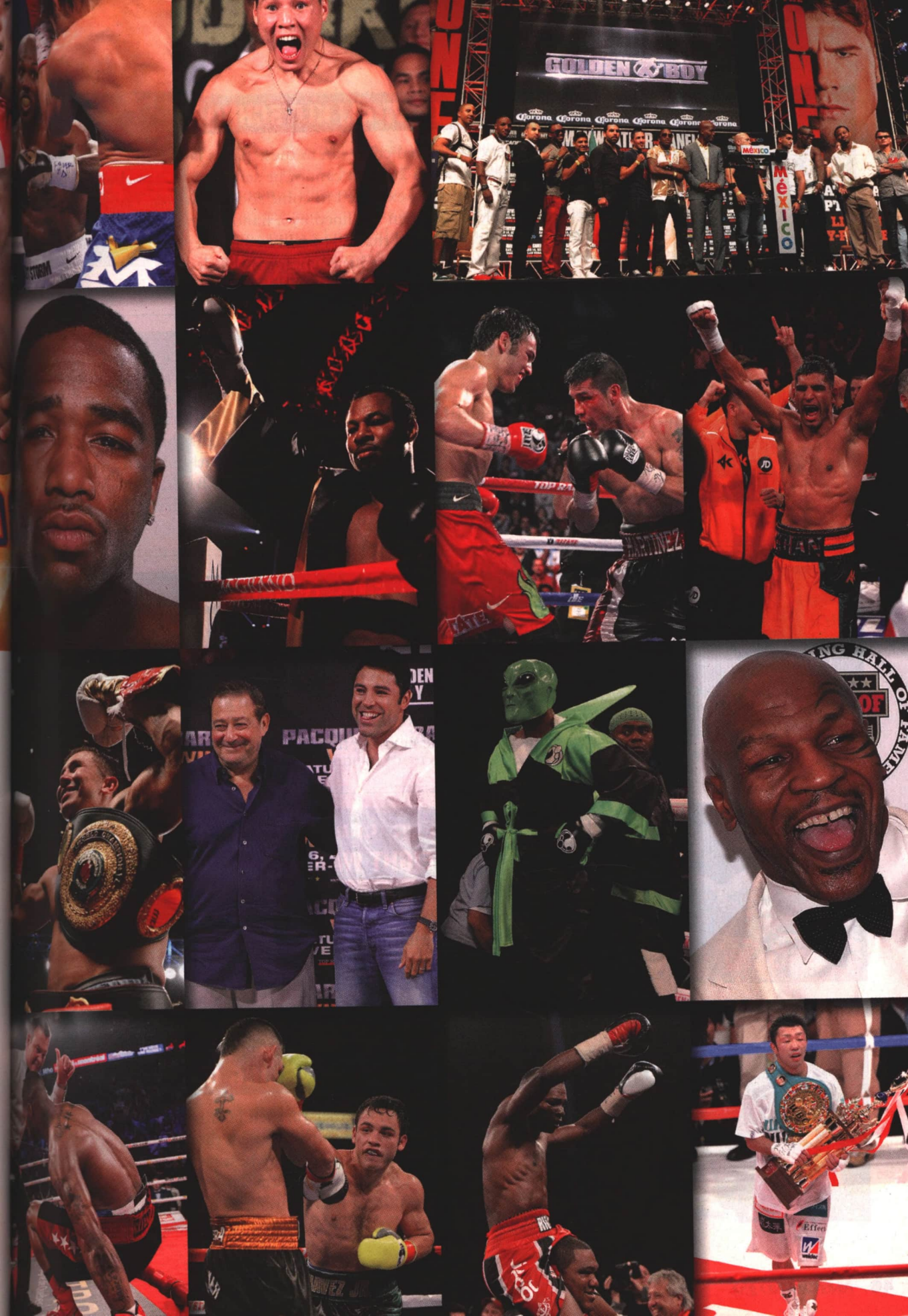
RING contributor David Greisman is able to see into the future.

10 THINGS WE'LL SEE IN 2014 ... AND 10 WE WON'T

THE RING'S FORECAST FOR THE COMING YEAR

By **David Greisman**

If we knew everything that will come in the sport of boxing, it wouldn't be anywhere near as fun — not when underdogs unexpectedly score upsets or when a bout surprisingly turns into a brawl. That's why they say that fights aren't won on paper. Despite that, it is on paper that we put forth our predictions for what will and won't happen in boxing in 2014. Stay tuned for good news and bad, and come back next month for the winning lotto numbers. →


GOLDEN BOY
Corona
México

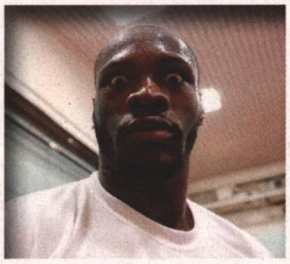
10 THINGS WE'LL

THE RETIREMENT OF VITALI KLITSCHKO

Admittedly, this very same prediction ran in these pages last year. But while Klitschko didn't fight at all in 2013, it cannot be said that he has already hung up his gloves. That moment is expected to come soon, however. The 42-year-old heavyweight titleholder has been sidelined by a hand injury and is focused on politics in Ukraine. It's expected that 2014 will be his last year in the ring, paving the way for his run for president in his country's 2015 election.

THE END OF A MONTREAL FRANCHISE

The biggest boxing star in Quebec the past few years has been former super middleweight titleholder Lucian Bute, who has drawn the largest and loudest of crowds. Second to Bute has been former light heavyweight champion Jean Pascal. Both have seen better days; Bute was knocked out by Carl Froch in 2012, while Pascal has fought only twice since his May 2011 loss to Bernard Hopkins. That means there'll be less fanfare when Bute and Pascal fight each other in January 2014, and it means that the loser will likely fade away.



DEONTAY WILDER WILL FINALLY GET TESTED

Sure, no other heavyweight prospect has knocked out all 30 of his foes. But these five years of Wilder's development have brought plenty of sizzle without much steak. It's time for Wilder to step up his level of opposition. And it sounds as if his team will make that happen in 2014, placing him in a bout against someone toward the top of his division's rankings. Finally, we should get more of a clue as to whether Wilder will be the next big thing or yet another big bust.

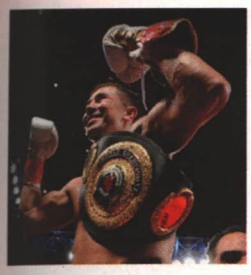
ADONIS STEVENSON VS. SERGEY KOVALEV IN A LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHT WAR

It's tempting to believe that Stevenson-Kovalev won't happen in 2014, considering that both men have spoken of facing Bernard Hopkins and how marketable a fight in Quebec between Stevenson and the winner of the Jean Pascal-Lucian Bute fight would be. Yet boxing seems to have learned its lesson with waiting too long to make the big fights. HBO put its spotlight on Stevenson and Kovalev in 2013. The network will want to cash in on that investment soon.

AMIR KHAN CASHING IN BY CRASHING OUT

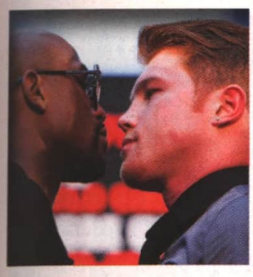
If Khan ends up fighting Floyd Mayweather Jr., then he'll receive millions for the privilege of once again having his shaky chin shattered, though this time he would at least have the excuse that he was stopped by the best boxer of this generation. That might as well be the end of Khan, whose formidable hand speed could never fully make up for his glaring weakness. It's one thing to be wobbled by Marcos Maidana and stopped by Danny Garcia. It's another to go life and death with Julio Diaz.

SEE IN 2014 ...



MORE RIDERS ON THE GENNADY GOLOVKIN BANDWAGON

The ratings for Golovkin are rising at the same rate that GGG's foes are falling. It helps that he's fighting often, appearing four times in 2013. His next date will come just three months after his last one, so 2014 could bring more of the same from the active middleweight titleholder. It also helps that Golovkin continues to impress; he's knocked out 15 in a row and hasn't had a bout go to the scorecards in 5½ years. People will want to watch Golovkin as he's being moved toward a big fight in 2014.

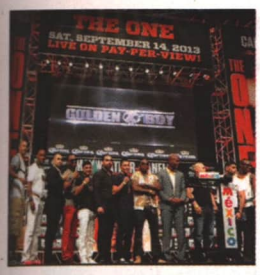


TOO MANY FIGHTS ON PAY-PER-VIEW

Set aside two dates and $150 for Floyd Mayweather Jr. in 2014. Add another two Saturdays and another chunk of change for Manny Pacquiao's main event appearances. Then there's Canelo Alvarez, who says he'll be fighting on pay-per-view three times in 2014. That's seven pay-per-view purchases, and that's not even including the likelihood that Adrien Broner will test the pay-per-view market in 2014.

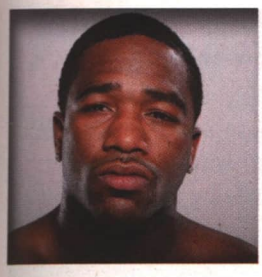
THE END, FINALLY, FOR BOXING'S AGING FORMER STARS

Very few of the big names in boxing from 10 years ago are still competing in the ring. A majority of those who remain should've left the sport a long time ago, including the light heavyweight trinity of Roy Jones Jr., Antonio Tarver and Glen Johnson, as well as Jose Luis Castillo, Erik Morales, Shane Mosley and James Toney. They've had to settle for appearing on smaller shows or traveling to far-flung places. 2014 should be their last year. The sooner they say farewell, the sooner that some of them can be welcomed into the Hall of Fame.



THE EMERGENCE OF BOXING'S NEXT STARS

Showtime is airing more triple- and quadruple-header broadcasts. HBO is investing in its next generation of featured attractions. Promoters are signing and spotlighting top talent from around the world. And all of this is going on at a time when most of the current generation of stars are getting up in age or nearing the end of their careers. It's time for the next generation to step up, and if 2013 was any indication of what's to come in 2014, they'll have their opportunities.



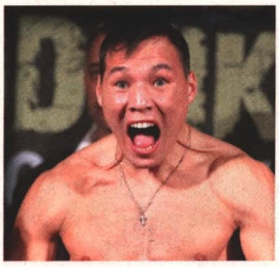
ADRIEN BRONER INVOLVED IN ANOTHER SCANDAL OR TWO

Broner's in-ring successes have been accompanied by extracurricular excesses. He has seemingly courted controversy, what with a history of legal problems, a habit of questionable postings on social media sites and a tendency to insert himself into various incidents. The fact that Broner hasn't lost yet means he hasn't been scared straight. Rather, his behavior has been rewarded, probably because his personality feeds into his popularity.

10 THINGS WE

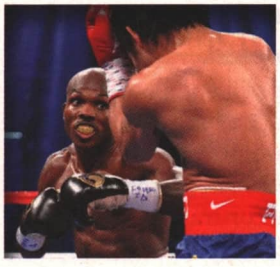
FLOYD MAYWEATHER JR. VS. BERNARD HOPKINS

It doesn't matter how often Hopkins has claimed that he could drop down to middleweight to face Mayweather. It's not going to happen, not so long as Mayweather has other options to choose from among the 140-, 147- and 154-pound ranks for the remaining four fights of his deal with Showtime. As interesting as it would be to have two of this generation's best and smartest American boxers face each other, it is not the kind of style matchup that Mayweather wants.



RUSLAN PROVODNIKOV AS THE A-SIDE TO A FIGHT

And Provodnikov will be OK with that, given that there are plenty of potential matchups available for him against other top fighters. It's more beneficial for Provodnikov (both in terms of finances and reputation) to step in with more established stars. Instead of defending his world title against an anonymous assortment of challengers, he can aim for rematches with Timothy Bradley and Mike Alvarado, bouts against Manny Pacquiao and Brandon Rios, or, should he decide to burn bridges with HBO, against many of the junior welterweights and welterweights that Golden Boy has been featuring on Showtime.



A TIMOTHY BRADLEY-MANNY PACQUIAO REMATCH

Bradley boldly predicted before he fought Pacquiao the first time that there would be a rematch. He ended up defeating Pacquiao, but the way that he won ended up preventing a sequel from occurring. Bradley took a highly controversial split decision, and their fight wasn't highly entertaining. Since then, Pacquiao has had more potentially combustible pairings, a fourth match with Juan Manuel Marquez and a bout with Brandon Rios. Bradley has still been in main events, but he will not get a chance to beat Pacquiao without controversy.

A SERGIO MARTINEZ-JULIO CESAR CHAVEZ JR. REMATCH

Last year's prediction of a Martinez-Chavez sequel failed to come true. Martinez's injuries sidelined him after one fight, and Chavez returned from his suspension for marijuana use and had just one bout, a controversial win over Bryan Vera. That Vera fight showed that Chavez has grown out of the middleweight division, thanks in part to his lack of discipline in training camps. Expect Chavez to seek the big names at 168, while Martinez returns to competition at 160.

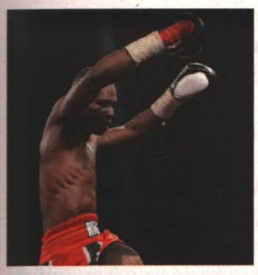
FLYWEIGHTS GET THE ATTENTION THEY DESERVE

There's incredible depth in the 112-pound division, but only the most hardcore of fans in the United States are following it. That's because these little warriors hail from (and fight in) Asian and Latin American countries, and so they aren't getting the widespread attention befitting their entertainment value. The same can also be said for many of the other lighter divisions.

WON'T SEE

THE END OF BOXING'S COLD WAR

Now that we've finally gotten over fantasizing about Floyd Mayweather Jr. facing Manny Pacquiao, we can recognize that there are other major matchups that likely will never be made because of the "cold war" between Top Rank and Golden Boy Promotions. Barring a couple of their "lesser" fighters facing each other, we'll continue to see their respective stars separated by business deals — with opposing television networks in America and Mexico, as well as with competing commercial sponsors.



A CUBAN CROSSOVER STAR

The closest we've come in recent years was Yuriorkis Gamboa, who was heavily featured until he sabotaged his own career. Gamboa has lost all of that momentum and has long since been eclipsed by other contenders and titleholders. Meanwhile, Guillermo Rigondeaux scored the biggest win of his pro career in 2013 when he defeated Nonito Donaire, yet he had to wait until the end of the year to get back on television. And Erislandy Lara is still quite low on his promoter's list of priorities in the 154-pound division.

MIKE TYSON STEP AWAY FROM THE SPOTLIGHT

Tyson remains the most famous boxer alive not named Muhammad Ali, even though his last fight was more than eight years ago. That's good for Tyson, who still needs money after squandering the tens of millions he earned over the course of his career. We've continued to see Tyson tackle multimedia programming, from movies to television shows to theater productions to an autobiography. He's now involved with boxing promoting as well.

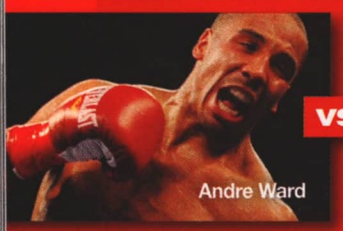
CHAD DAWSON ONCE AGAIN BECOME A FORCE AT 175

Little has been heard from the former light heavyweight champion since his first-round, one-punch knockout loss to Adonis Stevenson. We wonder whether he'll fight again, and even if he does, it's hard to believe that he'll regain the throne. It's not that Dawson doesn't have the physical tools, but mentally he seems to sabotage himself. He's never put it all together, has changed trainers as often as he changes underwear, has won just twice in three years and he is now able to spend plenty of time with his family. If he doesn't need the money, and if he doesn't have the hunger, then staying home might not be a bad idea.

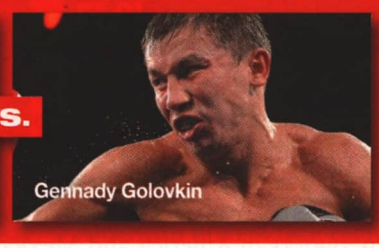
BETTER JUDGING

Don't kid yourself. You do remember that this is boxing, right?

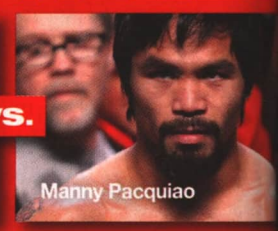
DREAMS AND



VS.



VS.



THE RING asked its contributors to reveal the fights they most want to see — and those they most dread — in 2014. This is how they responded.

BART BARRY
Want to see: ANDRE WARD VS. GENNADY GOLOVKIN ★ **Why:** While a match between Sergio Martinez and Floyd Mayweather Jr. remains a compelling chance for Mayweather to do something historic, Ward-Golovkin would be the better fight. It would test both, and Ward would prevail, recalibrating pound-for-pound lists for a year or two. ★ **Don't want to see:** FLOYD MAYWEATHER JR. VS. MANNY PACQUIAO ★ **Why:** This match, four years too late, would mark a new level of cynicism in boxing. Mayweather-Pacquiao in 2014 would be a concession that Pacquiao needs money and Mayweather needs opponents. And worse yet, if the fight were somehow good, it would remind us how much was once squandered.

RON BORGES
Want to see: FLOYD MAYWEATHER JR. VS. MANNY PACQUIAO ★ **Why:** Because if it doesn't happen in 2014 there is absolutely no point in it ever happening. It's still the fight fans most want to see and without it each will have a hole in his resume of their own making. With both slipping, it probably makes for a more compelling fight, as Ali-Frazier III was, because each is more vulnerable now to what the other does best. ★ **Don't want to see:** FLOYD MAYWEATHER JR. VS. DEVON ALEXANDER ★ **Why:** Why would you want to watch a counterpuncher face a non-puncher? What would he counter? There would be more action in the stands than in the ring.

MIKE COPPINGER
Want to see: DANNY GARCIA VS. ADRIEN BRONER ★ **Why:** Garcia had a banner year in 2013 and has expressed interest in moving up to 147. Broner now is a full-fledged welterweight and his blend of power, speed and athleticism would make for an explosive matchup between two big punchers. ★ **Don't want to see:** FLOYD MAYWEATHER JR. VS. AMIR KHAN ★ **Why:** Khan has done nothing to earn a mega-fight with Mayweather, as he struggled against Julio Diaz in his last outing. Khan has one of the worst chins in the sport and probably would be starched by Mayweather in a walkover. Hey, at least "Money" would finally score a KO.

GARETH A DAVIES
Want to see: CARL FROCH VS. GENNADY GOLOVKIN ★ **Why:** Power-punchers who do not take a backward step. Bing, bang, boom. This matchup could not fail to deliver. And, with the fight at super middleweight, it would be a huge test for Golovkin against a bigger man. ★ **Don't want to see:** WLADIMIR KLITSCHKO VS. BRYANT JENNINGS ★ **Why:** Jennings may have earned a shot at Klitschko. He is undefeated in 17 fights and is highly ranked in three of the four major sanctioning bodies. Yet Jennings is barely known outside Philadelphia. It says it all about the heavyweight division at present. Klitschko vs. AN OTHER ... again.

BERNARD FERNANDEZ
Want to see: ADONIS STEVENSON VS. SERGEY KOVALEV ★ **Why:** Figure the Vegas odds on this one going the distance at 100-1, minimum. The greater likelihood is for a George Foreman vs. Ron Lyle-type slugfest for however long it lasts. Whichever power-puncher gets there first with a really big shot probably wins, provided the other guy doesn't climb off the deck to land something even bigger. ★ **Don't want to see:** FLOYD MAYWEATHER JR. VS. JUST ANY SEMI-WARM BODY. ★ **Why:** Given his current level of domination, "Money's" fights are beginning to resemble the days when a prime Roy Jones Jr. casually disposed of moonlighting cops, school teachers, sanitation workers and other assorted no-hopers. Is there anyone out there (and, no, Floyd-Manny Pacquiao isn't likely to ever happen) in or around Mayweather's weight class who can be at least competitive with the man?

NORM FRAUENHEIM
Want to see: GENNADY GOLOVKIN VS. ANDRE WARD ★ **Why:** Age, punishment and immaturity are cleaning out the middleweight division before Golovkin can. Sergio Martinez is too beat-up. Fading Miguel Cotto is too small. Julio Cesar Chavez Jr. is too busy eating. Let's go straight to Golovkin-Ward. It makes sense. Dollars, too. ★ **Don't want to see:** JULIO CESAR CHAVEZ JR. VS. BRYAN VERA ★ **Why:** Haven't we seen this already? Yeah, Vera was robbed. But a rematch won't win justice. It'll just be a repeat of Chavez never growing up and never having to. A mature Chavez is like a modest Lady Gaga. Won't happen, not now and not in a rematch.

THOMAS GERBASI
Want to see: ADONIS STEVENSON VS. SERGEY KOVALEV ★ **Why:** I was torn between this matchup and a Sergio Martinez-Gennady Golovkin bout, but I'll have to give in to the bloodthirsty part of my being and hope to see a light heavyweight unification fight that can't help but be an explosive – and likely quick – showdown. ★ **Don't want to see:** WLADIMIR KLITSCHKO VS. ANYONE ★ **Why:** This is not an indictment of Klitschko, it's simply the realization

NIGHTMARES

that there is no one out there who I give even an iota of a chance of beating the king of the heavyweight division. Not Deontay Wilder, not Bermane Stiverne, not Tyson Fury.

DAVID GREISMAN

Want to see: ADONIS STEVENSON VS. SERGEY KOVALEV ★ **Why:** Putting power punchers together can bring combustible fun. A fight featuring Stevenson and Kovalev could be the light heavyweight version of the 2011 battle between junior middleweights James Kirkland and Alfredo Angulo. ★ **Don't want to see:** DANNY GARCIA VS. ROBERT GUERRERO ★ **Why:** The bout in and of itself wouldn't be bad, as it could serve as a gauge for whether Garcia might belong in the welterweight division. But the sideshow involving Garcia and Guerrero's trash-talking fathers would get old long before the fight came.

KEITH IDEC

Want to see: GENNADY GOLOVKIN VS. ANDRE WARD ★ **Why:** There aren't any attractive opponents left at super middleweight for Ward. Most middleweights who might have a shot against Golovkin probably won't fight him. Ward would at least show us how the aggressive Golovkin fares against an elite talent, especially someone so smart and sound defensively. ★ **Don't want to see:** FLOYD MAYWEATHER JR. VS. AMIR KHAN ★ **Why:** Danny Garcia can't beat Mayweather either, but at least Garcia has earned that huge payday. How could anyone defend instead granting that chance to a guy Garcia knocked out? While skilled, this is the same guy who almost got knocked out by Julio Diaz in his last fight, right?

GORDON MARINO

Want to see: DEONTAY WILDER VS. CHRIS ARREOLA ★ **Why:** At 28 and with 30 KOs in 30 fights, it is time to find out what Wilder can do against someone who can take and deliver punches. That is Chris Arreola. A former basketball standout, Wilder has good footwork, a snapping jab and an explosive right hand that has left his many KO victims twitching on the canvas. I am eager to see how he fares against someone like Arreola, who can tussle inside and who will test his whiskers. ★ **Don't want to see:** FLOYD MAYWEATHER JR. VS. AMIR KHAN ★ **Why:** Khan does not have the power or boxing skills to make this fight competitive.

ROBERT RODRIGUEZ

Want to see: SERGIO MARTINEZ VS. FLOYD MAYWEATHER JR. ★ **Why:** Sure, Martinez is bigger and stronger, but as Martin Murray and two knee surgeries have demonstrated, he is also vulnerable. For "Money," winning the legitimate world middleweight title would be yet another major feat, while Sergio would get substantial "buck" for Mayweather's "bang" to cap off his storied career. ★ **Don't want to see:** BERNARD HOPKINS VS. ANYONE ★ **Why:** Hopkins' body may be the envy of 48-year-old men around the world, but what does he contribute to the sport by beating up on younger-but-inferior-no-name opponents? His legacy has long been cemented and he will enter the IBHOF upon becoming eligible. He doesn't need the money or the additional punches to the head.

DOUG FISCHER

Want to see: ADONIS STEVENSON VS. SERGEY KOVALEV ★ **Why:** It's not only a light heavyweight championship between the two most powerful and feared 175-pounders, but a matchup of two of the hardest punchers in boxing. However, it's not just the sadistic promise of concussive violence that attracts me to this fight, it's also their craft. Both guys are world-class boxers with contrasting styles. ★ **Don't want to see:** BERNARD HOPKINS VS. FLOYD MAYWEATHER JR. ★ **Why:** Apart from the fact that Hopkins, who is nearing 50, would have to come down to 160 pounds – a weight he hasn't made since 2005 – to make it happen, this fight would be the antithesis of Stevenson-Kovalev. A cagey old technician who employs roughhouse tactics vs. a lightning-quick defensive genius will not make for compelling viewing. Even fans who enjoy watching Wladimir Klitschko will boo this one.

TIM SMITH

Want to see: FLOYD MAYWEATHER JR. VS. TIMOTHY BRADLEY ★ **Why:** Mayweather is running out of legitimate opponents, and Bradley is a natural – an undefeated, welterweight champion who is the ultimate survivor. The feud between rival promoters will keep this from happening, which is a shame for Bradley. He deserves this shot as much as anyone Mayweather has fought in the last three years. ★ **Don't want to see:** GUILLERMO RIGONDEAUX VS. NONITO DONAIRE II ★ **Why:** I know Donaire wants some "get back" in a rematch, but I can hardly see how anything changes in a second match. They say styles make fights, and their respective styles when matched in the ring make for a stinker.

ANSON WAINWRIGHT

Want to see: ADONIS STEVENSON VS. SERGEY KOVALEV ★ **Why:** If both win interim bouts on Nov. 30, this could well be on HBO's schedule for the first quarter of 2014. How could this meeting between two such devastating punchers for the RING and two sanctioning-body belts be anything other than exciting? ★ **Don't want to see:** RICHAR ABRIL VS. MIGUEL VAZQUEZ ★ **Why:** With the greatest respect to each guy, neither has a fan-friendly style. If these two lightweights met, it would be agony to watch with more wrestling than boxing. RING

Naoki Fukuda

MANNY PACQUIAO'S EASY VICTORY OVER BRANDON RIOS REVIVED TALK OF **PACQUIAO VS. MAYWEATHER** BUT HUGE OBSTACLES REMAIN IN THE WAY

By **Bernard Fernandez**

Like Count Dracula rising from his coffin at sunset, the possibility that a Floyd Mayweather Jr.-Manny Pacquiao fight might finally be staged was again resurrected immediately after Pacquiao's impressive points victory over Brandon Rios on Nov. 23 in Macau, China. Had Pacquiao lost for the third consecutive time, it might have permanently driven a stake into the heart of whatever remains of his boxing career, regardless of whether the recalcitrant Mayweather ever warmed to the idea of their throwing down in the ring.

OK, so maybe the vampire analogy is inaccurate. Because of the significant time differences between China and the United States, the Filipino superstar's prestige-restoring performance – televised in the U.S. on Saturday night – actually was achieved with the sun shining brightly outside the Venetian Macao on Sunday morning, Nov. 24. But however impatient and frustrated fight fans might want to characterize it, fresh life had been restored to a dated concept that many had given up as gone forever. Maybe good things really do come to those who wait.

And wait ... and wait.

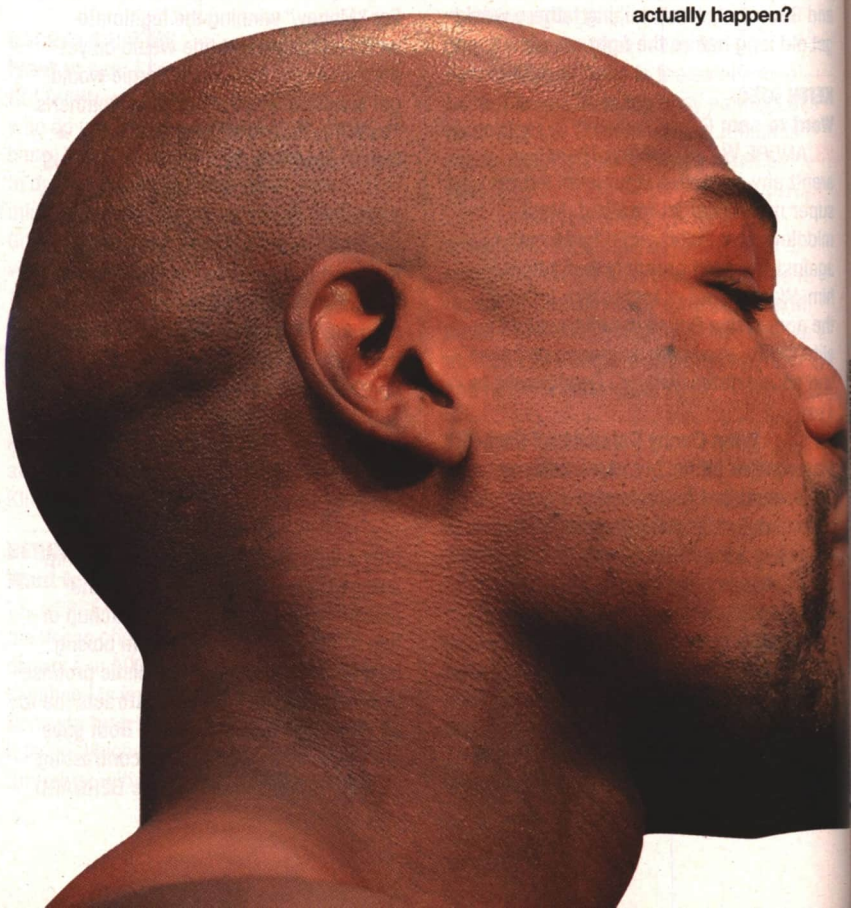
In the days preceding Pacquiao's efficient dispatching of Rios, Pacquiao's hard-line promoter, Bob Arum, had dropped hints that a matchup of Pacquiao and Mayweather, so obviously desired by nearly all and yet so obviously blocked by the harsh feelings the various principals have for one another, might actually be made.

"On our side, the answer is yes," Arum said in Macau when the thorny question of a Mayweather-Pacquiao fight arose for, oh, the millionth time. "We're very open to it. There are ways it can get done. They [Mayweather and his support team, which includes Golden Boy CEO Richard Schaefer] have to dumb down the rhetoric. We are prepared to dumb down the rhetoric.

"There is no real impediment to having that fight happen. Whether it will or not depends completely on the Mayweather side. But it takes two to tango."

For Arum, who turned 83 on Dec. 8, to extend a figurative olive branch to "that Swiss banker" – his long-preferred and clearly derogatory designation for Schaefer – is akin to Devil Anse Hatfield going all Rodney King and asking Randolph McCoy, "Can't we all just get along?"

Only four weeks prior to Pacquiao-Rios, when ageless Golden Boy fighter Bernard Hopkins retained his IBF light heavyweight title against Karo Murat in Atlantic City, N.J.,



Will we ever see this actually happen?

Schaefer sounded very much like someone not inclined to ever make nice with Arum, his most bitter rival. Asked by a reporter whether it was true, as had been rumored, that Canelo Alvarez, a Golden Boy and Showtime fighter, would next face Miguel Cotto, who is with Top Rank and HBO, Schaefer's reaction was anything but conciliatory.

"No," he said flatly. "There's nobody with Top Rank that's going to be sitting in on that meeting. If Miguel Cotto wants to fight (on Showtime and against Alvarez), no problem. But it will have to be without Top Rank."

Contacted by THE RING to get his response to Arum's purported peace offering, Schaefer did not sound as if he was suddenly ready to let bygones be bygones. He's heard it all before, and he's still not buying what Arum claims he's trying to sell.

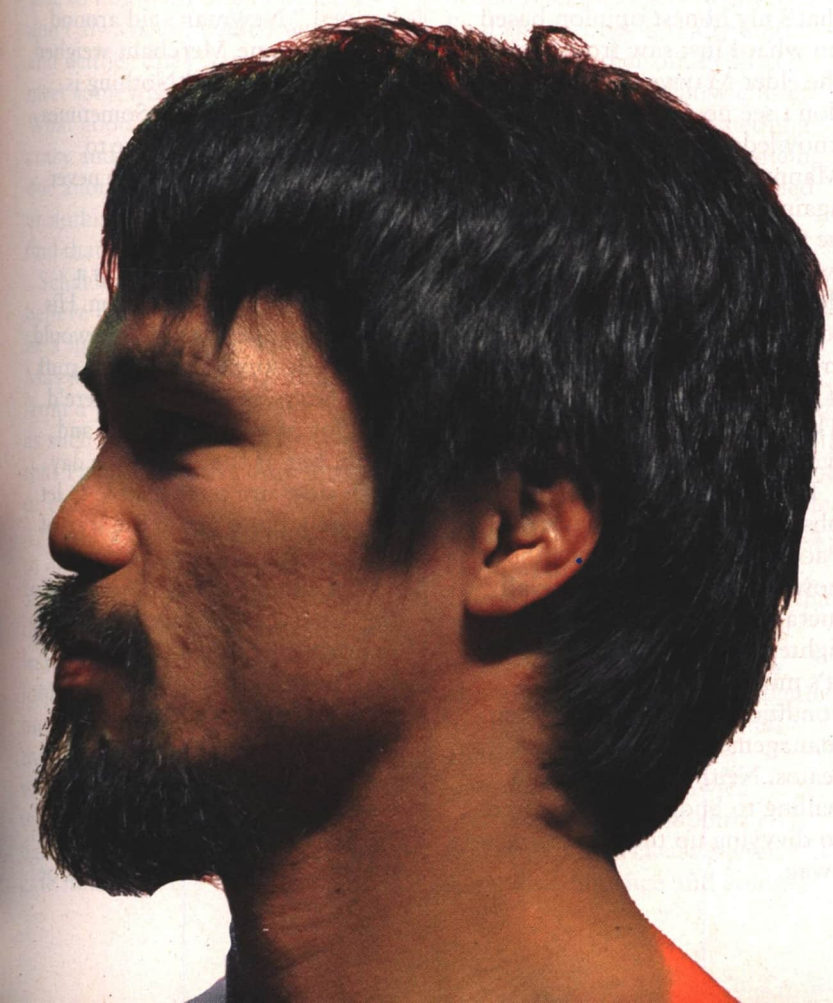
"Forget Arum. Arum is full of s--t," Schaefer said. "I gave up on working with this guy ever again. He has become irrelevant in my book, and I don't want to have anything to do with him.

"As far as (Pacquiao's victory over Rios) relates to Mayweather, I think Floyd himself said it best. He said if Pacquiao is a free agent, the fight can happen. But as long as he's with Arum, it's not ever going to happen. Nobody with Team Mayweather has any interest in working with Top Rank."

The mutual loathing Arum and Schaefer have for one another, which seems to be shared at least to some degree by Pacquiao and Mayweather, has made for a far greater divide to be bridged than anything that might come up in Alvarez-Cotto negotiations. But necessity is the mother of all compromise, and it is becoming apparent that the really frigid relationship between the fight game's ultimate Cold Warriors probably has to thaw because it is not good business.

Mayweather (45-0, 26 KOs) still has four bouts remaining on the gargantuan, six-fight contract he signed with CBS/Showtime, which all told could pay him upwards of $200 million if the more optimistic of pay-per-view projections are met. But therein lies the problem: "Money" Mayweather has been winning far too easily to continue to convince the public that anyone out there can truly test him, judge C.J. Ross' ridiculous 114-114 scorecard submitted following his schooling of Alvarez notwithstanding.

The likely opponent for Mayweather's next mammoth payday, set for May 3 in Las Vegas, is England's Amir Khan (28-3, 19 KOs), who many remember as the guy who was dropped three times en route to a fourth-round TKO setback to RING junior welterweight champion Danny Garcia on July 14, 2012. Khan will be widely seen as just another slab of meat to be fed into the Mayweather grinder, and who wants to pay $60 or $70 to see another glorified sparring session? Until he shows more visible signs of erosion, Mayweather, even at 36, would likely be installed by oddsmakers as at least a 10-to-1 favorite over every one of the fighters in or around the weight at which he fights (146 to 151 pounds) – save one.



That would be Pacquiao (55-5-2, 38 KOs), who celebrated his 35th birthday 23 days after his near-shutout of Rios (31-2-1, 23 KOs). In winning just three of 36 scored rounds on the official scorecards, Rios' boasts that constant pressure would cause the Philippine national hero to crumble proved as hollow as a drinking straw.

"He was faster than I thought," Rios lamented. "He's very fast. Power-wise, I didn't feel that much. But I'm good, man. I fought one of the greatest boxers in the world besides Mayweather. I stuck to my game plan, but the speed got me a little bit."

More than a little bit, actually. "This is still my time. My time is not over," Pacquiao said of the kind of dominating performance he needed to remind people of just how good he was when he won five of his record eight world titles in different weight classes between 2008 and 2011. That Pacquiao was thought to have vanished, possibly forever, in the wake of his disputed loss to Timothy Bradley and one-punch knockout by Juan Manuel Marquez last year.

Despite the pall hanging over his head in the form of Typhoon Haiyan, which killed over 5,000 of his countrymen, Pacquiao showed flashes of his former brilliance against Rios, connecting on 281 of 790 punches (36 percent), according to CompuBox, to just 138 of 502 (27 percent) for Rios. He seemingly had Rios in deep enough trouble in the 12th and final round to close the show with an exclamation point, but he didn't press his already-significant advantage, perhaps because he was leery of getting tagged with the same sort of bolt from the blue that had put him down and out a year ago against Marquez.

"Boxing is not about killing each other," Pacquiao said of his late easing up on the gas pedal. "It's about entertaining people. The people, from Rounds 1 through 12, were satisfied with my performance. I was trying to be careful because of what happened in my last fight with Marquez."

Pacquiao's trainer, Freddie Roach, was among those who gave a high grade to the victor. "That's more of the Manny that we remember," Roach said. "Manny Pacquiao's back, but I never really had the thought he went anywhere."

A differing opinion was offered by Floyd Mayweather Sr., who trains his son and is just as caustic in suggesting that Pacquiao, past or present, has any more chance of actually winning a showdown with Floyd Jr. than Robert Guerrero had or Khan will have.

"Brandon Rios can't fight, and that's my honest opinion based on what I just saw from him," the elder Mayweather sneered. "I don't see no skills, I don't see no knowledge of boxing. I do think Manny looked very, very good against him. Manny moved how he wanted to. He touched him when he wanted to. Manny was doing everything, moving side to side, giving him angles and cracking him. But come on, man, it was a comedy act (by Rios). The dude didn't win a round. It was a total shutout."

Truth be told, the main obstacle to making Mayweather-Pacquiao has never been about how competitive or financially lucrative it would be. Both fighters are already wealthy. It's more about their egos, a condition that extends to their management and promotional teams. Neither side has been willing to budge when it comes to divvying up the huge monetary swag.

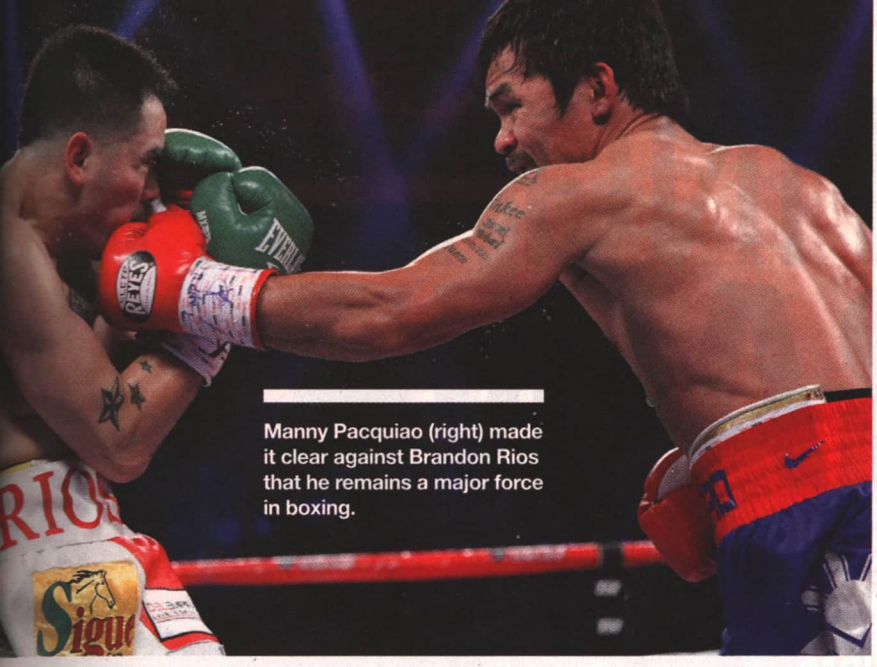
"I think of negotiating as a kind of dominance in which both sides are trying to show that they're 'The Man,' they're stronger than the other guy, they're the one who can impose his will on the other guy, and that will somehow show up in the ring," longtime HBO fight analyst Larry Merchant said in January 2010, when talk of a Mayweather-Pacquiao pairing was at a fever pitch.

Rock Newman, who oversaw the career of former heavyweight champion Riddick Bowe, knows a thing or two about superfights that fail to get made since his guy never got around to swapping shots as a pro with his Brooklyn homeboy, Mike Tyson, or with Lennox Lewis, who defeated Bowe for the super heavyweight gold medal at the 1988 Seoul Olympics.

"There are circumstances why fights that make sense don't happen," Newman said around the same time Merchant weighed in on the subject. "Nothing is automatic in boxing. Sometimes you wind up on a bridge to nowhere, and that bridge never gets crossed.

"Bob Arum, who can be maddening to deal with, is a financially practical person. His regard for the bottom line would supersede any of that other stuff with Mayweather. Sure, there'd be a lot of posturing back and forth, but at the end of the day both sides are too sensible to let past squabbles get in the way of doing what needs to be done."

Of a similar mind is Art Pelullo, the American promoter of WBO junior welterweight champion Ruslan Provodnikov (23-2, 16 KOs), who, along with Bradley (31-0, 12 KOs), are the most likely candidates for Pacquiao's next bout, which is set for April 12. Mayweather-Pacquiao, if it were to happen, likely would be



Manny Pacquiao (right) made it clear against Brandon Rios that he remains a major force in boxing.

in September.

"I've known Arum for 26 years, and we get along very well, even when we disagree," Pelullo said recently. "We usually find a way to make things work. It's possible to disagree with someone and still get along. It starts with being able to talk with one another. I don't always get what I want, and neither does Arum, but you meet somewhere in the middle. What good does it do to get crazy and always be at odds with one another? If you insist on all-or-nothing, you're never going to find that middle ground."

Schaefer, for his part, doesn't believe there even ought to be a middle ground. He said Mayweather is the one dealing from a position of strength, and as such he gets to call the tune that Pacquiao must dance to, or else.

"Top Rank doesn't know how to do pay-per-views anymore," Schaefer said. "If you look at their recent buys, they're getting less and less and less. If you look at Pacquiao's pay-per-view numbers, certainly for his last three fights, if you added them together they don't amount to what Mayweather did in one fight (with Alvarez). Look at the gate numbers, the sponsorship numbers, the foreign TV numbers. Look at (who has) the leverage. It's all on Floyd's side. Floyd is going to say who, what, when, where and how. I think he deserves that."

But, in boxing, there's always at least a little wiggle room. When final push gets down to final shove, does it really matter that Mayweather once called Pacquiao "a little yellow chump" who "probably is on something," meaning performance-enhancing drugs? That Pacquiao then sued Mayweather for defamation? That Mayweather would prefer that any prefight drug-monitoring be done by the U.S. Anti-Doping Agency, while Pacquiao would insist on the Voluntary Anti-Doping Association, which tested him six times [he passed them all] in advance of the Rios fight? That Arum hates Mayweather, Schaefer and Golden Boy president De La Hoya even more than he hated Don King, and vice versa? Or that Mayweather is under contract to Showtime while Pacquiao, although not technically obligated to appear solely on HBO, has almost always done so?

Showtime executive vice president Stephen Espinoza said he would at least exercise some due diligence and contact Arum to ascertain whether there actually is wiggle room that could be sufficiently widened to arrive at an arrangement acceptable to all parties. "This is an enticing enough opportunity to do it," a perhaps unduly optimistic Espinoza said.

The Lewis-Tyson fight of June 8, 2002, took place and was made available on both HBO and Showtime pay-per-view because, as Lewis noted, "Anywhere Lennox Lewis would go, people would say, 'When are you gonna fight Mike Tyson?' So it was something we both really couldn't run away from."

If they insisted upon it, Mayweather and Pacquiao probably could make all the bickering cease and strike a deal. They would do it because they'd want to settle the question of who really is the better fighter where it counts, in the ring, and because they really have no place as compelling to go but toward each other.

"Mayweather has a contract, and he has four fights left on it," Roach noted in an interview with Boxingscene.com. "They can't fulfill (the financial terms) of that contract without fighting Manny Pacquiao. To make the money to pay the contract, that's why they had to go with Canelo so quick, because the first fight (of the contract, with Guerrero) lost so much money.

"We need this fight for the sport and we need it now. That's the fight the world wants to see."

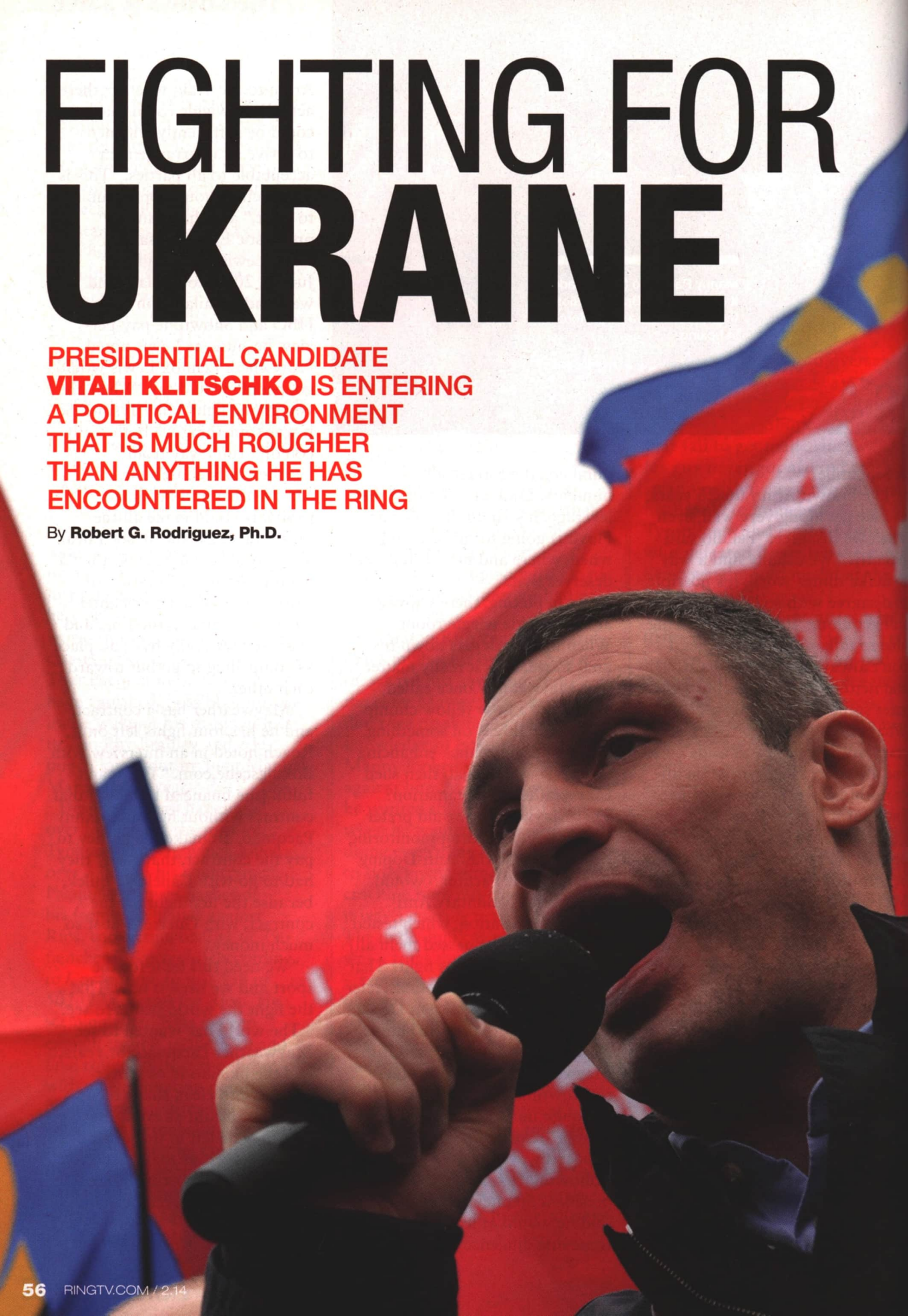
The world has wanted to see Mayweather-Pacquiao for years, and the likelihood of it ever coming into clear, sharp focus seems as distant as ever. All that may be left in the not-too-distant future, as their respective windows of opportunity begin to close, is regret, remorse and recriminations.

So what else is new? RING

FIGHTING FOR UKRAINE

PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE **VITALI KLITSCHKO** IS ENTERING A POLITICAL ENVIRONMENT THAT IS MUCH ROUGHER THAN ANYTHING HE HAS ENCOUNTERED IN THE RING

By **Robert G. Rodriguez, Ph.D.**



The fastest way for an iconic boxer to lose popularity among his countrymen is not by suffering a loss in the ring. As Vitali Klitschko has demonstrated in Ukraine, entering politics will lose you fans much faster. "Before I became a politician," he said in an interview with *Forbes* magazine, "everybody liked me. Now, at least half regard me warily."

Vitali Klitschko has been an important figure in boxing. Now he wants to change his country.

In case you haven't heard, "Dr. Ironfist" announced in October his candidacy to become the president of Ukraine. If you're wondering how a WBC heavyweight title belt qualifies someone to become president of *anything*, you are not alone. Sure, being a popular world champion athlete in a sports-crazed country like Ukraine provides you with universal name recognition. But is it enough to win the presidency?

To answer that question you need to know a little about Ukrainian politics and history. For the time it takes you to read this article, forget everything you know about politics and how democracy works, and brace yourself for the reality that the current WBC heavyweight champ will have to navigate to become president of his country.

For most of the 20th century, Ukraine was one of the 15 republics of the Soviet Union. After a series of reforms known as Perestroika (restructuring) and Glasnost (openness) implemented by then-General Secretary (President) Mikhail Gorbachev, the emboldened republics – including Ukraine – declared their independence from the Soviet Union between 1990 and 1991.

Klitschko, the son of a Soviet Air Force officer, was born in the Soviet republic of Kyrgyz but moved to the republic of Ukraine as a boy. When Ukraine declared itself an independent state on August 24, 1991, Klitschko and all citizens of the former Soviet Union who resided permanently in the republic became Ukrainian citizens. Klitschko addressed his Ukrainian citizenship as early as 1992 in an interview featured in the 2011 *Klitschko* documentary. "I was born in Central Asia in the summer of 1971," he said, "but I am Ukrainian. I come from a military family stationed in different places all over the Soviet Union."

In 1991, virtually overnight, the entire socioeconomic way of life in Ukraine shifted from a paternalistic communist system to a capitalist, fragile democracy that would now have to develop and take charge of its own institutions and destiny. Vitali recalled the period in *Klitschko*, saying, "There were a lot of problems. The economy had failed. The Soviet system had

Klitschko looms large in Ukrainian politics. He hopes to become president of the Eastern European nation.

KLITSCHKO FOR PRESIDENT

Vitali Klitschko has announced he will run for the presidency of Ukraine in 2015. Here is some background:

UKRAINE: The country, which has the largest land area of any nation located entirely in Europe, is nestled between Poland and Russia. The population is approximately 44.5 million. The average annual income is $8,232 (compared to $39,156 in the U.S.), according to the UN International Labour Organization.

GOVERNMENT: A former republic of the Soviet Union, Ukraine became independent in 1991. Ukraine has a semi-proportional electoral system for legislative bodies, meaning political parties win half of total seats based on their share of the vote while the other half are won by individual candidates in each district. The president serves a five-year term (with eligibility for a second consecutive term).

PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION: The next presidential election is scheduled for Feb. 26, 2015. The winner is determined on the basis of a majority electoral system: If none of the candidates gain 50 pecent-plus-one-vote, a run-off election between the two top candidates will be scheduled.

PRESIDENTIAL CONTENDERS: Seven candidates are likely to split the vote. According to an October 2013 poll, the top three candidates are the incumbent, Viktor Yanukovych (leading with 19 percent), Vitali Klitschko (15.5) and currently imprisoned former Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko (13.2).

KLITSCHKO'S PARTY PLATFORM: *The Ukrainian Democratic Alliance for Reform (UDAR) of Vitali Klitschko* is pro-Western Europe and U.S. It emphasizes western democratic principles, anti-corruption efforts and judicial reform. The party favors the Association Agreement between Ukraine and the European Union, a wide-ranging economic, social and political partnership. It seeks cooperation between Ukraine and NATO, and supports Tymoshenko's release from prison.

ODDS OF A KLITSCHKO VICTORY: Klitschko has a decent chance of making it to the run-off election. He is currently in second place, according to polls, but the election is over a year away. The two big intangibles are the determination of Klitschko's eligibility to run, because he reportedly holds German residency, and the legal fate of Tymoshenko.

— Robert G. Rodriguez, Ph.D.

collapsed with no replacement at the time. There were no laws, no rules, nothing at all."

Although some sectors of society were complacent with their centrally managed lives, the unleashing of the democracy genie produced euphoric celebrations throughout the former Soviet Union.

Ukraine quickly became a cesspool of corruption. The cheers celebrating the Soviet Union's demise were soon met with the realities of engaging in a capitalist system without any firsthand knowledge on how to do so. Entrenched Ukrainian politicians and industrial executives who happened to be in the right place at the right time made off like bandits through the privatization of state-owned industries and became "New Ukrainians," a tiny cohort of oligarchs positioned to capitalize on their political clout and newly found wealth.

For example, Leonid Kravchuk, who became the first democratically elected president of newly-independent Ukraine, had spent the previous two decades as the Head of the Division of Agitation and Propaganda for the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Ukraine, among other related positions. His term in office was marked by rampant hyperinflation and fraudulent business deals.

Kravchuk's successor, Leonid Kuchma, was a two-term president, in a reign that could be characterized as anything but a liberal democracy. A 2001 *Washington Post* article states, "[Kuchma's] opponents allege he ordered the abduction and murder of a crusading journalist, condoned a grenade attack on a political opponent, threatened to jail officials who didn't produce enough votes for him and knew about the theft of $100 million of government revenue."

Klitschko's foray into this political environment began nearly a decade ago, as a participant in the so-called Orange Revolution that swept Ukraine in the winter of 2004. The Ukrainian presidential contest that year pitted Western-style democratic reformer Viktor Yushchenko against Kuchma's prime minister, Viktor Yanukovych, and several minor candidates. About six weeks before the elections were to take place, it was widely reported that Yushchenko was poisoned with dioxin, a carcinogen found in Agent Orange, that produced chloracne (a severe acne-like appearance) on Yushchenko's face.

Yushchenko won a plurality of the vote (he received more votes than any of the other candidates) in the October 2004 elections. However, Ukraine has a majority-vote system for president (the winner must receive at least 50 percent of the votes). A run-off election was held in November 2004, and amid widespread evidence of corruption, Yanukovych won the official tally by a 3 percent margin. This set off the widespread Orange Revolution protests across Ukraine, punctuated by a "tent city" erected by thousands of protesters on the main avenue that runs across Independence Square in Kiev, Ukraine's capital.

During the Orange Revolution, Vitali and his brother Wladimir made multiple appearances on behalf of the pro-west presidential candidate, Yushchenko, and the woman he would appoint Prime Minister, Yulia Tymoshenko. (Ukraine has a semi-presidential system whereby a popularly elected president appoints a prime minister approved by the parliament.) In fact, when Vitali defended his title against Danny Williams on Dec. 11, 2004, both Klitschkos wore orange hats, Vitali's trunks were adorned with an orange cloth and his entourage carried a Yushchenko campaign sign into the ring.

The protests proved to be successful, as Ukraine's Supreme Court ordered a re-vote. The new election was held on Dec. 26, 2004, and this time Yushchenko won with 52 percent of the votes and was inaugurated on Jan. 23, 2005.

Yushchenko's presidency turned out to be fairly disastrous even though some pro-Western reforms were enacted, notably efforts to join NATO, eliminating tourist visa requirements for U.S. citizens and appointing Tymoshenko prime minister. By 2006, Tymoshenko was dismissed, and replaced as prime minister by none other than Viktor Yanukovych, Yushchenko's presidential rival. Allegations of corruption in the Yushchenko regime were rampant, and he contributed to the perception by dissolving parliament on two occasions and dismissing members of Ukraine's Constitutional Court.

During his first "retirement" from boxing in 2006, Klitschko formally entered politics by unsuccessfully running for mayor of Kiev. He campaigned as part of a coalition of reform parties called *PORA-ROP* and finished the election in second place, with about 24 percent of the vote. Ukraine has a proportional representation system for city councils and parliament, meaning political parties win seats in a legislative body on the basis of their share of the vote.

U.S. ATHLETE TO POLITICIAN

Many U.S. athletes have made the transition from sports to politics. Here are 10 who experienced success.

DAVE BING
Athlete: NBA player
Politician: Mayor of Detroit

BILL BRADLEY
Athlete: NBA player
Politician: U.S. Senator

JIM BUNNING
Athlete: MLB player
Politician: U.S. Senator

KEVIN JOHNSON
Athlete: NBA player
Politician: Mayor of Sacramento

JACK KEMP
Athlete: NFL player
Politician: U.S. Congressman, U.S. Secretary of HUD, vice presidential candidate

STEVE LARGENT
Athlete: NFL player
Politician: U.S. Congressman

TOM OSBORNE
Athlete: NFL player, college coach
Politician: U.S. Congressman

ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER
Athlete: Bodybuilder
Politician: Governor of California

HEATH SHULER
Athlete: NFL player
Politician: U.S. Congressman

JESSE VENTURA
Athlete: Pro wrestler
Politician: Governor of Minnesota

J.C. WATTS
Athlete: CFL player
Politician: U.S. Congressman

Klitschko's coalition party won enough votes to enable him to become one of the 120 members of the Kiev City Council.

With strategic assistance from former New York City mayor Rudy Giuliani, Klitschko again ran for mayor of Kiev in May 2008, this time under the *Vitali Klitschko Bloc* party. He came in third place (behind winner Leonid Chernovetskyi and Tymoshenko) and held onto his seat in the city council. Klitschko returned to the ring in October that year, once again winning the WBC title, against Samuel Peter. He has made nine successful defenses.

By 2010, a thoroughly discredited Yushchenko won only 5 percent of the vote in his reelection bid and left office in disgrace. In the ultimate political twist, Viktor Yanukovych became his successor as president. In April of that year, Klitschko formed a new political party: the *Ukrainian Democratic Alliance for Reform (UDAR) of Vitali Klitschko*. UDAR has a double-meaning, as it translates to "punch" or "blow" in Ukrainian. And in May 2010, Ukraine's General Prosecutor's Office (perhaps under the direction of Yanukovych) had criminal charges of trying to bribe Supreme Court judges reopened against Yulia Tymoshenko. Additional charges of misuse of funds, corruption, abuse of power and tax evasion were issued between December 2010 and October 2011.

On Oct. 11, 2011, Tymoshenko was found guilty of abuse of power for her role in a 2009 gas supply deal with Russia, sentenced to seven years in prison and transferred to a penal colony in Kharkiv, Ukraine. A *BBC News* article reporting on the verdict stated, "The EU said it was disappointed with the verdict, and that Kiev's handling of the case risked deep implications for its hopes of EU integration."

The United States Senate passed a resolution condemning the "selective and politically motivated prosecution and imprisonment of Yulia Tymoshenko" and called for her immediate release. Most recently, in November 2013, the Senate passed another resolution calling for Tymoshenko's release highlighting an April 2013 ruling by the European Court of Human Rights that determined her "pre-trial detention had been arbitrary; that the lawfulness of her pre-trial detention had not been properly

reviewed; that her right to liberty had been restricted; and, that she had no possibility to seek compensation for her unlawful deprivation of liberty."

In October 2012, Klitschko's UDAR party won a sufficient percentage of the votes to garner 42 parliamentary seats. As the party leader, Klitschko became one of the 450 members elected to a five-year term in the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine (parliament). In so doing, Klitschko followed in the footsteps of fellow world champion boxers Manny Pacquiao, who was elected to Congress in the Philippines in 2010, and Nikolai Valuev, who entered the Russian Duma (parliament) in 2011.

To put UDAR's political power in perspective, the party is the third largest in the Ukrainian parliament. Yanukovych's *Party of Regions* is the dominant force, holding 207 seats, followed by Yulia Tymoshenko's *Batkivshchyna* (All Ukrainian Union "Fatherland") party with 90 seats. UDAR is closely followed by the right-wing nationalist *Svoboda* (Freedom) party (36 seats), the Communist Party of Ukraine (yes, they're still around, and they hold 32 parliamentary seats), and 35 non-affiliated members.

So what do Vitali Klitschko and UDAR stand for? In *Klitschko*, while he was still a member of the Kiev City Council, Vitali said, "Ukraine has huge potential. But sadly, it's not really being developed. Corruption continues to hold the country back." Anna Starostenko, a UDAR member of the Kiev City council, explained in the documentary that Klitschko formed his own party based on western principles. She said, "Here people often go into politics to make money. That's their main goal. In Vitali's case it's completely the opposite."

UDAR's platform, as stated on its webpage, is very favorable to Western Europe and the United States. It is based upon the general planks of anti-corruption and judicial reform. Specifically, UDAR favors entering into the Association Agreement between Ukraine and the European Union (a formal process to integrate European countries into the EU), cooperation between Ukraine and NATO, and it supports Tymoshenko's release from prison.

The next step for Klitschko is a run at the presidency, although he already faces a problem. Article 103 of the Ukrainian Constitution states that a candidate for president must "reside in Ukraine for the past 10 years prior to the day of elections." The Ukrainian parliament passed a bill amending the Tax Code of Ukraine on On Oct. 24, 2013. It states: "If a person has the right to permanent residence in a foreign country, such a person is considered to be one who does not live in Ukraine." This part of the law, now known as the "Klitschko Amendment," was clearly intended to dash Vitali Klitschko's presidential aspirations, since he reportedly has residence status in Germany. Klitschko responded to passage of the bill with his presidential bid announcement, while President Yanukovych signed the legislation into law on Nov. 8, 2013. Klitschko vowed to continue his presidential run, though it is unclear whether Law No. 657-VII will ultimately keep him off the ballot.

In addition to trying to ward off Klitschko's challenge, President Yanukovych reneged on the Association Agreement between Ukraine and the European Union, leading more than 100,000 people to protest on the streets of Kiev on Nov. 24, 2013. These were the largest protests in Ukraine since the Orange Revolution. *BBC News* reported, "World heavyweight boxing champion Vitali Klitschko, who leads the UDAR movement, addressed the rally in Kiev saying Ukrainians would not tolerate what President Yanukovych had done to the country's prospects for integrating with the EU. 'We will fight in order for the association agreement to be signed,' (Klitschko) said."

If Klitschko can get past the roadblocks Yanukovych has placed in his path, can he actually win? The Ukrainian presidential elections are scheduled for Feb. 26, 2015. If none of the candidates earn at least 50 percent – which current polls indicate will likely be the case – then a run-off election will be held among the top two candidates. An October 2013 public opinion poll taken by the Razumkov Centre, a Ukrainian non-governmental think-tank that *The Washington Post* has characterized as a "top research institute in Kiev," indicates that Klitschko would garner the second highest tally in the first round of voting (15.5 percent), behind Yanukovych (19 percent). Thus, Klitschko definitely has a fighting chance to pull off the upset. If he wins, Ukrainian politics and history tells us that his greatest fights will have just begun.

Dr. Robert G. Rodriguez is a political science professor at Texas A&M University-Commerce. He is the author of *The Regulation of Boxing: A History and Comparative Analysis of Policies among American States.*

BOXING FANS IN THE WHITE HOUSE

OUR CORRESPONDENT COULDN'T FIND EVIDENCE OF A SITTING PRESIDENT ATTENDING A PRO FIGHT BUT CAME UP WITH SOME OTHER INTERESTING FACTS

By **Robert G. Rodriguez, Ph.D.**

In the June 2013 issue of THE RING, columnist Thomas Hauser posed an intriguing question: Has a sitting or past U.S. president ever attended a pro fight?

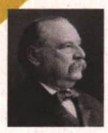
Although several U.S. presidents were amateur boxers (such as James A. Garfield, Theodore Roosevelt, Franklin D. Roosevelt and Dwight Eisenhower) and others invited professional boxers to the White House (including John F. Kennedy, Lyndon Johnson, Jimmy Carter, Ronald Reagan and George W. Bush), evidence could not be found that any sitting or past president ever attended a pro fight. However, photographs and news reports reveal that Harry Truman and George W. Bush attended professional fights *before* becoming president, and Truman attended military amateur bouts as a sitting president.

Then-Vice President Truman attended the Rocky Graziano vs. Billy Arnold fight at Madison Square Garden on March 9, 1945, just one month before he would become president upon Franklin D. Roosevelt's death on April 12. There is also photographic evidence of Truman attending boxing matches onboard Navy ships while president: the USS Augusta, returning to the U.S. from the Potsdam Conference (where he met with Winston Churchill and Joseph Stalin) in August 1945, and the USS Missouri, returning from the Rio Conference (where the U.S. became a signatory to the Inter-American Treaty of Reciprocal Assistance) in September 1947. In fact, on the very day that President Truman was informed that the atomic bomb was dropped on Hiroshima, he sat at ringside enjoying the fights.

Nevertheless, these events do not meet Mr. Hauser's criteria because the bouts held on these ships did not involve professional boxers.

The only other president who conclusively attended professional boxing matches was George W. Bush, who was present at the Real Estate Council Foundation Fight Night charity event held at the Dallas Fairmont Hotel on March 7, 1991. Five professional bouts were held that evening, and a photograph exists of the future president at the event.

In the vain attempt to find a credible report of a sitting or past U.S. president having attended a boxing match, the following interesting tidbits about presidents and boxing emerged:



GROVER CLEVELAND met with the last bare-knuckle/first gloved heavyweight champion John L. Sullivan in 1887, making Sullivan the first boxing champion to meet with a sitting U.S. President at the White House.

WILLIAM HOWARD TAFT was asked by promoter Tex Rickard to referee the historic Jack Johnson-Jim Jeffries bout in 1910.

WARREN G. HARDING gave his endorsement to revive the Army, Navy and Civilian Board of Boxing Control (an entity to regulate boxing) under the guidance of the International Sporting Club in 1921.

CALVIN COOLIDGE legalized boxing in U.S. territories in 1929, thereby sanctioning boxing in Hawaii, which formed a boxing commission and held its first matches that year.

FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT personally encouraged Joe Louis prior to his rematch with Max Schmeling in 1938, saying that the U.S. needed muscles like his to beat Germany. It was another heavyweight champ, Jack Dempsey, who said that FDR had "the most impressive shoulder muscles" he had ever seen.

HARRY TRUMAN signed an Executive Order allowing boxing and sparring in the Panama Canal Zone. He also was given tickets by Jersey Joe Walcott to his fourth fight with Ezzard Charles in a White House visit on May 26, 1952, though Truman evidently did not attend the bout held on June 5 of that year.

JOHN F. KENNEDY, who enjoyed listening to boxing on the radio, invited fellow Catholic Floyd Patterson to the White House and reportedly encouraged him not to fight Sonny Liston in 1962.

LYNDON JOHNSON created the Job Corps program in 1964, which notably counted a young George Foreman among its participants. In 1983, Foreman donated his RING championship belt to the LBJ Presidential Library, where it continues to be displayed to this day.

GERALD FORD was an assistant boxing coach at Yale University in 1935.

JIMMY CARTER watched the Muhammad Ali-Leon Spinks rematch with Egypt's Anwar El Sadat two days before the Camp David Accords were signed with Israel's Menachem Begin in September 1978. Carter also met with WBC light heavyweight titlist Matthew Saad Muhammad at the White House in 1980.

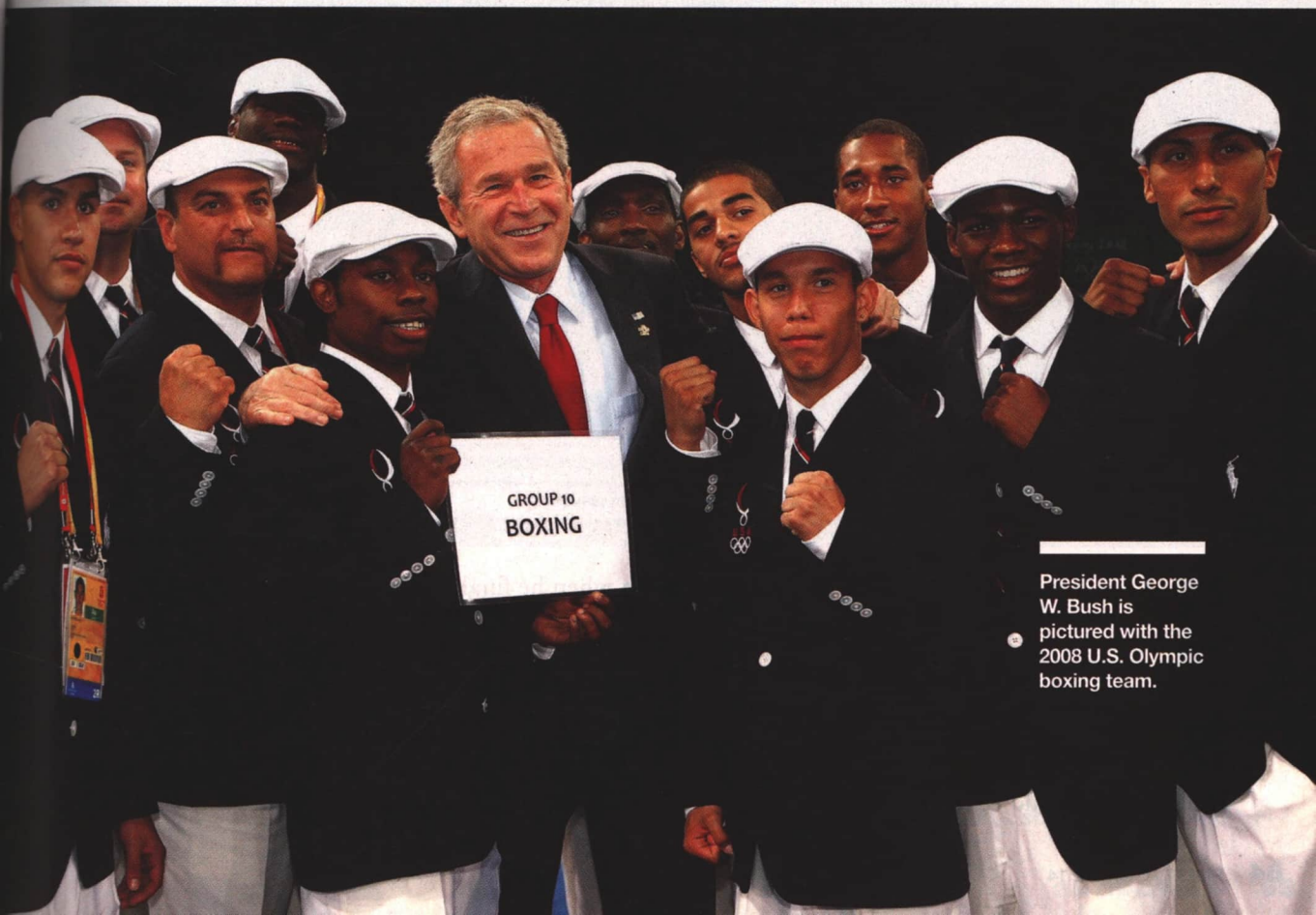
RONALD REAGAN reportedly covered boxing during his sports broadcasting days, but information of him attending a specific boxing event could not be found. As president, he waived the requirements for Joe Louis to be buried at Arlington National Cemetery and famously quoted Jack Dempsey after being shot in an assassination attempt ("Honey, I forgot to duck") in 1981. He promised to call Gerry Cooney if he had lifted the title from Larry Holmes in 1982, and was photographed alongside champions George Foreman, Sugar Ray Leonard and Floyd Patterson among several other boxing luminaries.

BILL CLINTON signed into law the Professional Boxing Safety Act of 1996 and the Muhammad Ali Boxing Reform Act of 2000. Today, Clinton is friendly with both Manny Pacquiao and Timothy Bradley.

GEORGE W. BUSH received John Ruiz, the first Latino world heavyweight champion, in 2001 and presented Muhammad Ali with the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 2005.

BARACK OBAMA described in his memoirs boxing lessons given to him by his stepfather as a child growing up in Indonesia. But he has yet to give a posthumous pardon to Jack Johnson, even though the U.S. Senate voted to encourage him to do so in April 2013.

Dr. Robert G. Rodriguez is a political science professor at Texas A&M University-Commerce. He is the author of *The Regulation of Boxing: A History and Comparative Analysis of Policies among American States.*

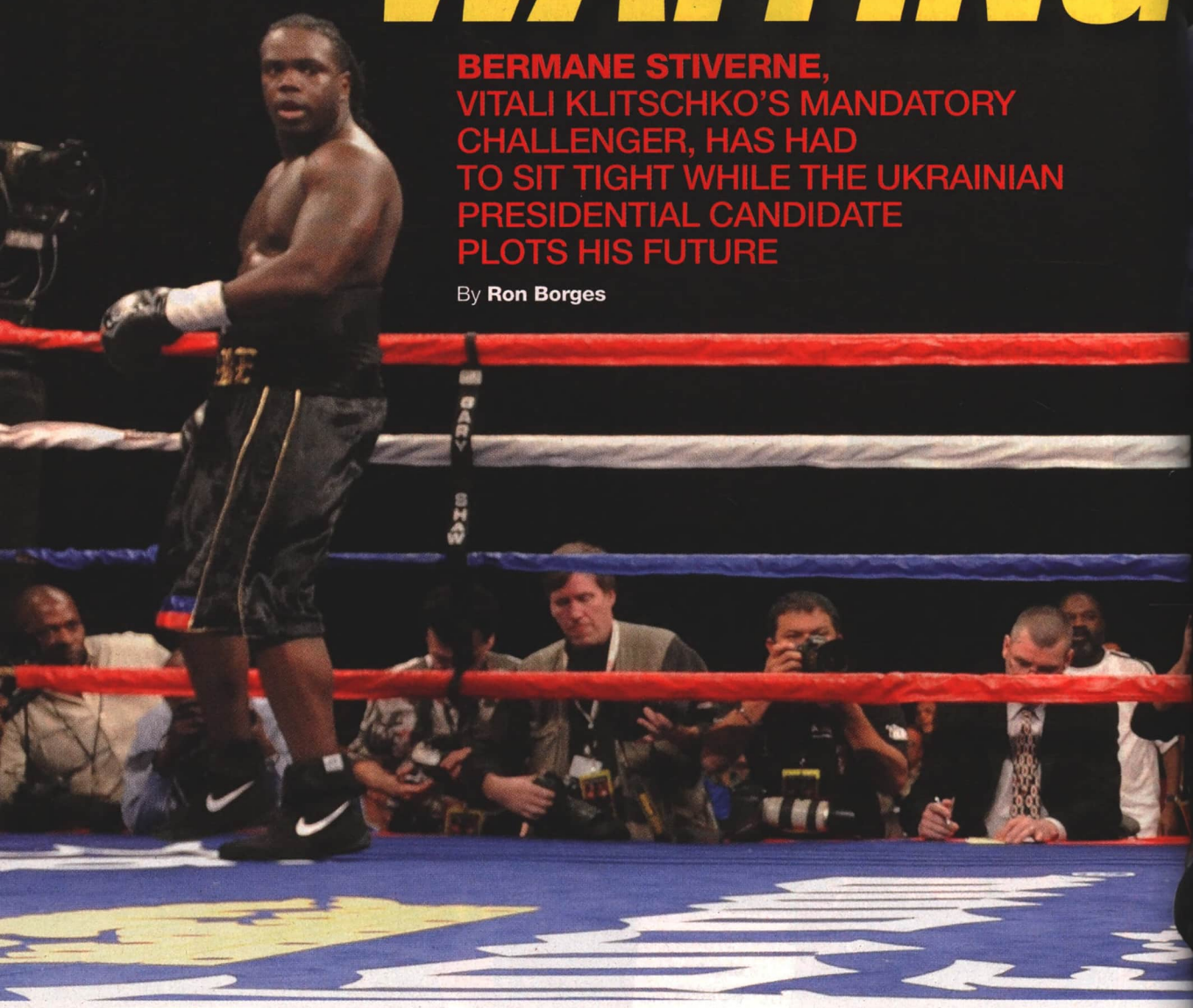


President George W. Bush is pictured with the 2008 U.S. Olympic boxing team.

READY AND WAITING

BERMANE STIVERNE, VITALI KLITSCHKO'S MANDATORY CHALLENGER, HAS HAD TO SIT TIGHT WHILE THE UKRAINIAN PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE PLOTS HIS FUTURE

By **Ron Borges**



If you know anything about boxing, Bermane Stiverne or singing the blues (which Stiverne has been forced to sing for some time now), you know why Etta James' voice should echo through the arena when he finally walks down the aisle and steps into the ring next year to fight for the WBC heavyweight title.

"At last
"My love has come along
"My lonely days are over
"And life is like a song

"I found a dream, that I could speak to
"A dream that I can call my own
"I found a thrill to press my cheek to
"A thrill that I have never known"

Bermane Stiverne (left) has done his part to earn a shot at Vitali Klitschko's title by winning fights, including a second-round knockout of Kertson Manswell.

What words could better explain the Haitian-born, Canadian-raised, Las Vegas-based fighter's odyssey to a well-earned shot at the WBC belt Vitali Klitschko first won a decade ago and last defended on Sept. 8, 2012?

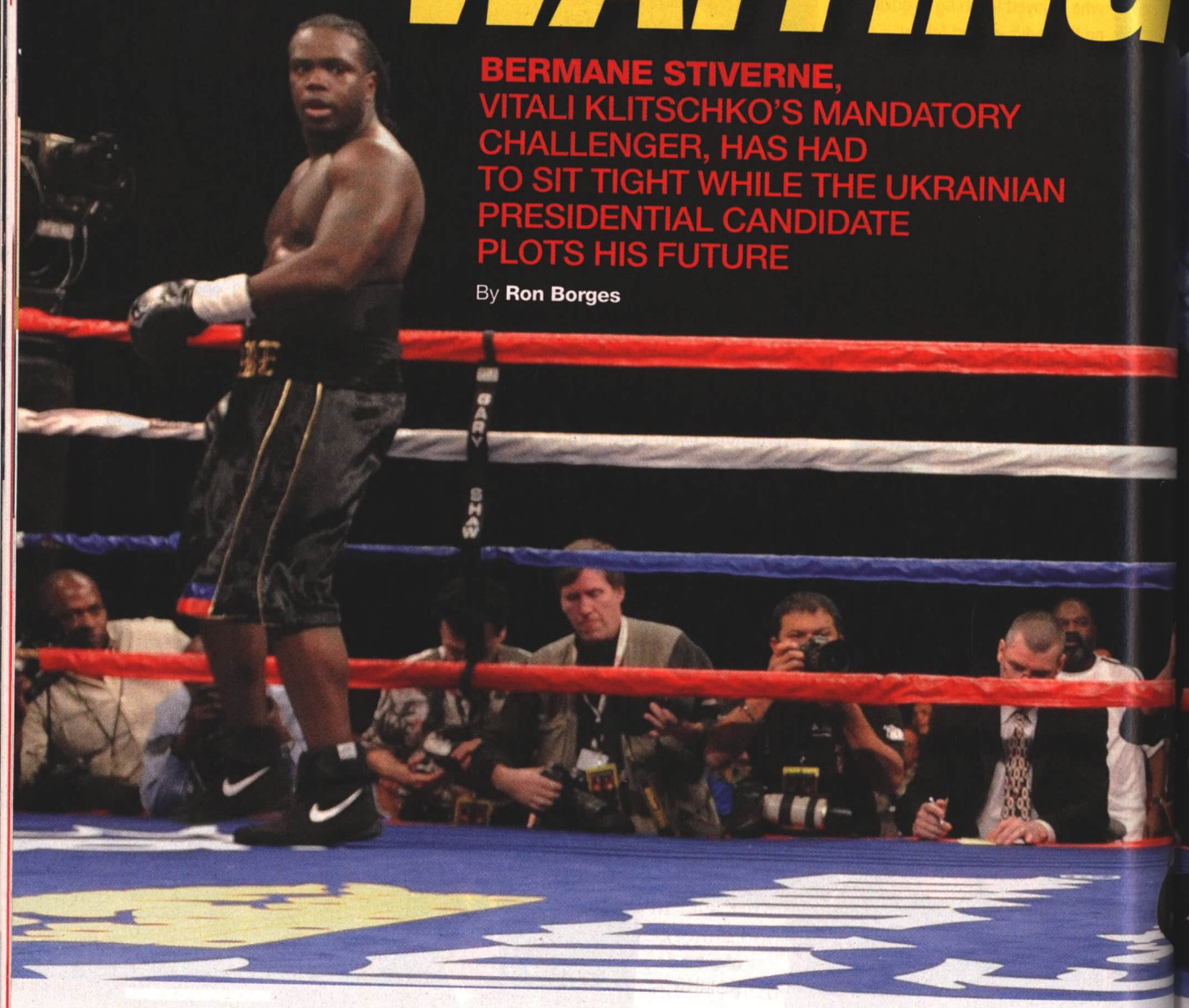
Stiverne's quest for a shot at Klitschko and, more importantly, the belt has been a series of trials. He twice won WBC elimination fights to become the mandatory challenger, the first time on June 25, 2011, and the second nearly a year later. But, as my mother might have put it: "Have you fought for the WBC heavyweight title? Well neither has Bermane."

Now – "At Last" – it seems his dream has come along. His lonely life is over, and sometime before the end of next spring life will be a song. A concussive

READY AND WAITING

BERMANE STIVERNE, VITALI KLITSCHKO'S MANDATORY CHALLENGER, HAS HAD TO SIT TIGHT WHILE THE UKRAINIAN PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE PLOTS HIS FUTURE

By **Ron Borges**



Bermane Stiverne (left) has done his part to earn a shot at Vitali Klitschko's title by winning fights, including a second-round knockout of Kertson Manswell.

If you know anything about boxing, Bermane Stiverne or singing the blues (which Stiverne has been forced to sing for some time now), you know why Etta James' voice should echo through the arena when he finally walks down the aisle and steps into the ring next year to fight for the WBC heavyweight title.

"At last
"My love has come along
"My lonely days are over
"And life is like a song

"I found a dream, that I could speak to
"A dream that I can call my own
"I found a thrill to press my cheek to
"A thrill that I have never known"

What words could better explain the Haitian-born, Canadian-raised, Las Vegas-based fighter's odyssey to a well-earned shot at the WBC belt Vitali Klitschko first won a decade ago and last defended on Sept. 8, 2012?

Stiverne's quest for a shot at Klitschko and, more importantly, the belt has been a series of trials. He twice won WBC elimination fights to become the mandatory challenger, the first time on June 25, 2011, and the second nearly a year later. But, as my mother might have put it: "Have you fought for the WBC heavyweight title? Well neither has Bermane."

Now – "At Last" – it seems his dream has come along. His lonely life is over, and sometime before the end of next spring life will be a song. A concussive

song to be sure, that being the music of heavyweight boxing, but sometime before spring has sprung he should finally get what he first earned more than three years ago. He'll get to fight for the title.

It might not be against Klitschko, the noble 42-year-old champion who is planning to run for the presidency of Ukraine in 2015. Klitschko informed the WBC at its annual convention in Thailand in early November that he would make a decision within 30 days whether to defend his title or abdicate the throne. Instead, Stiverne might face a man he has already handily beaten, the shopworn but still leather-tough American Chris Arreola, or maybe the U.S.' slowly rising new hope, 6-foot-7 Olympic bronze medalist Deontay Wilder.

Stiverne (23-1-1, 20 KO) would prefer to share his moment with Klitschko, who he has been pursuing for years, but if Klitschko hears a higher calling, so be it. Whoever it is, wherever it is, it will seem no less unlikely to a man who once wanted nothing to do with heavyweight champions.

"When I first began to box, I can remember watching Klitschko on television and thinking, 'No way I'll fight those heavyweights,'" Stiverne recalled while in Bangkok at the WBC convention. "I remember thinking, 'I'm a cruiserweight. He's too big.'"

Actually, when Stiverne first put on boxing gloves, he wasn't actually thinking about boxing at all. The only belt he was thinking about was the expansive one around his waist.

By then a fractured former football player once successful enough in Canada and Florida to be offered a scholarship to Michigan State, Stiverne had left

Stiverne (here fighting Manswell) is one victory away from realizing a dream.

the sport behind to earn a living as a telemarketer hustling cell phones in Miami. A sedentary job led to a sedentary lifestyle and finally a waistline Stiverne found burdensome.

One day a friend made a suggestion, one that has taken him farther than he ever thought possible.

"I'd gained a lot of weight selling calling plans, and a friend told me he'd lost a lot of weight after taking boxing classes, so I went to the gym with him to try it," Stiverne said as he recalled a moment that changed his life. "I never thought I would do this in my life. Everything had been football up to then.

"Boxing is the best workout. Because I was a big guy, people kept bugging me to fight. I trained for about a year. Then I accepted a fight. Even as an amateur I never thought I'd become a professional, but here I am today. I've accomplished more than I ever thought I could."

Indeed so, although the road, his manager Camille Estephan says, has been neither smooth nor ever downhill.

"We've developed crocodile skin," Estephan said of a long quest that included Stiverne becoming six-time Quebec Golden Gloves champion (1999-2005) as well as a Canadian National Team member for three years before missing the 2004 Olympics. "Bermane put a stone on top of a stone on top of a stone. You keep doing that, you can build a cathedral. That's what he has been doing."

That cathedral cracked a bit in 2004 when Stiverne lost a disputed decision to someone named George Garcia at an amateur tournament in Mexico. That defeat derailed his chances to make the Canadian Olympic team and led to his turning pro the next year, initially in dusty

Stiverne's immediate future is in the hands of a presidential candidate in Ukraine.

boxing venues like The Frosted Mug in Morgantown, W.Va.

Eventually he would join forces with promoter Don King, whom he is now suing, claiming King violated the Ali Act by forcing him to sign a promotional deal to land his first WBC elimination fight against Ray Austin three years ago. However that is adjudicated, Stiverne ended up on the right side of the fight's resolution, stopping Austin in the 10th round.

Although he never got the title shot he'd been promised earlier this year, he reasserted his claim and elevated his reputation within the division with a one-sided beating of Arreola in April.

That night began with Stiverne a heavy underdog but ended with him breaking Arreola's nose, knocking him down in the third round and beating him backward for 12 hard rounds to earn the decision by a wide margin. It was, at the time, considered an upset but not to Stiverne or Estephan, true believers that a cathedral can be built by anyone with a willingness to keep putting down stones and improving their trade.

"Instead of getting frustrated when I didn't get my chance to fight for the championship, I stayed focused and took my frustrations out in the ring," said Stiverne. "At times I thought I might not get what I'd earned, but you can't give up. I won a title shot once, and they took it from me. I won a second one, and they made me wait. If they wanted me to take a longer road, I took it. It paid off.

"I was unhappy sometimes, but I was happy with the outcome of the Arreola fight. I've seen myself getting better. This time I've had to wait has actually been helpful. I'm a bit more mature in the ring and more comfortable there now. Those rounds with Arreola showed me against a big guy like him I was capable of throwing 700 punches in a fight."

Even after that victory and a second turn as the mandatory challenger, Stiverne was unsure what Klitschko would do. Between battles with injuries and his political rise, the longtime titleholder has been absent from the ring for over a year and hasn't made a mandatory defense since Sept. 10, 2011. During all that time, the WBC appeared reluctant to push their champion too hard in Stiverne's direction, and so he and Estephan finally went to Thailand in pursuit of him.

"If you want something, you have to get up and go get it," Stiverne said. "That's what we did, literally. It was better to go to Thailand and get answers than to stay home with no answers."

Although it remains unclear whether the final answer will be a night with Klitschko, a rematch with Arreola, who is presently rated No. 2 by the WBC, or a move orchestrated to elevate Wilder, Stiverne is unconcerned. His real goal was never simply to fight Vitali Klitschko. His goal was to win a world championship from him, something politics of the real sort rather than the boxing kind might now preclude.

"In order to put an end to various rumors and attempts to finish me off as a potential candidate, I would like to announce the following: I am running for president," Klitschko told a session of the Ukraine parliament in late October. That decision was a response to a maneuver by the government of President Viktor Yanukovych to cut the ring off on him by passing a bill barring people with permanent resident status in another country from seeking the presidency, but it also may have cut him off from Stiverne.

Klitschko declared his long-threatened candidacy insisting that while he holds residency rights in Germany, where he trains and lives for long stretches, "this does not contravene Ukrainian law or annul my citizenship." An ally of jailed opposition leader and former Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko, Klitschko is doing very well in most polls in the country of 45 million in a showdown with Yanukovych. The anti-corruption party UDAR Klitschko helped form in 2010 continues to grow in popularity at a time when the European Union is pressuring Yanukovych to release Tymoshenko, who was jailed on abuse of power charges many believe were trumped up. Where this leaves Klitschko's long reign remains to be seen.

It would appear unlikely a man can run for president of his country while training for Stiverne, but then again Klitschko successfully defended the WBC title twice in the same year he helped start UDAR. In total, Klitschko has won 14 consecutive WBC heavyweight title fights, but his latest layoff led Stiverne to demand the WBC force the titleholder to face him or be stripped. We'll soon learn what Klitschko decided. If it ultimately is to fight Stiverne, his challenger will welcome the opportunity.

"I'd love to fight Vitali," Stiverne said. "He's been champion for so long. I'd like to test myself against him. I'd like to put on my record I fought Vitali Klitschko. It would be an honor to fight a guy like him, the legitimate champion of the past 10 years. But if it's not him, I have to move on."

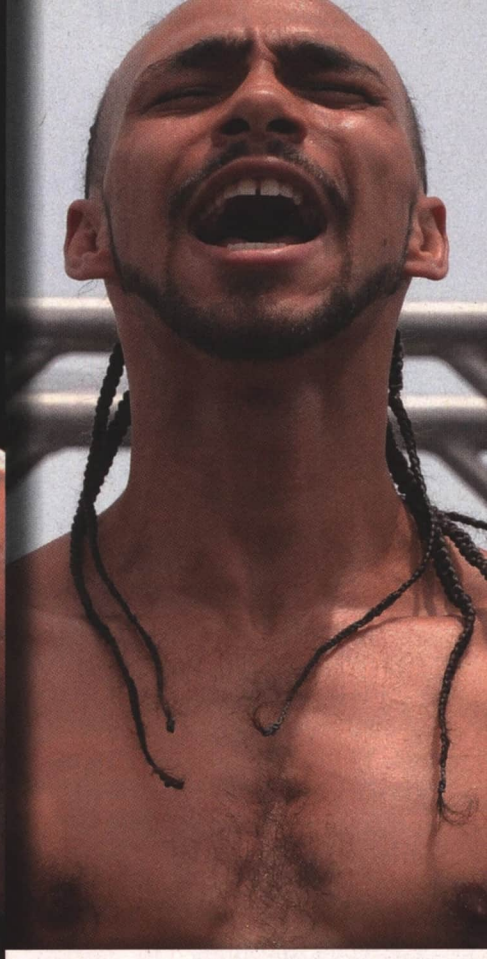
Indeed he would. After all, there's a cathedral to finish building.

'I FEAR NO MAN'

The belief Keith Thurman (left, against Diego Chaves) has in himself comes in part from the encouraging words of his late trainer.

KEITH THURMAN, WITH SELF-CONFIDENCE GLEANED FROM HIS LATE TRAINER AND HIS SPARRING PARTNERS, HAS SET HIS SIGHTS HIGH

By **Keith Idec**



Keith Thurman hears the authoritative voice of the late trainer who shaped his life every day as he trains inside St. Pete Boxing Club.

Nearly five years after Ben Getty's death, the demanding, demonstrative Vietnam veteran's words still inspire Thurman to prepare like the superstar Getty got Thurman to believe he is destined to become. When the powerful welterweight tires during training in St. Petersburg, Fla., he remembers things Getty yelled to motivate him and finishes workouts or sparring sessions with vigor.

The native of nearby Clearwater draws great strength from Getty's advice on the nights he fights, too.

"He would say things like, 'All right. Here we go, boy. It's time. This is what you trained for,'" Thurman said. "Or he'd say,

'First things first. Show them your power. They're scared of your power. Nobody wants your power.'"

Thurman demonstrated abnormal power as early as 7 years old, after he began learning to box at the makeshift gym Getty constructed at the elementary school where he was head janitor and Thurman was a student. At 9, he won his first amateur fight by first-round knockout.

By the time he was 14, everyone around him began taking notice of Thurman's heavy hands.

"I was watching him knock grown men down when he was 14, 15 years old," trainer Dan Birmingham said. "They were professional fighters. Keith always had power."

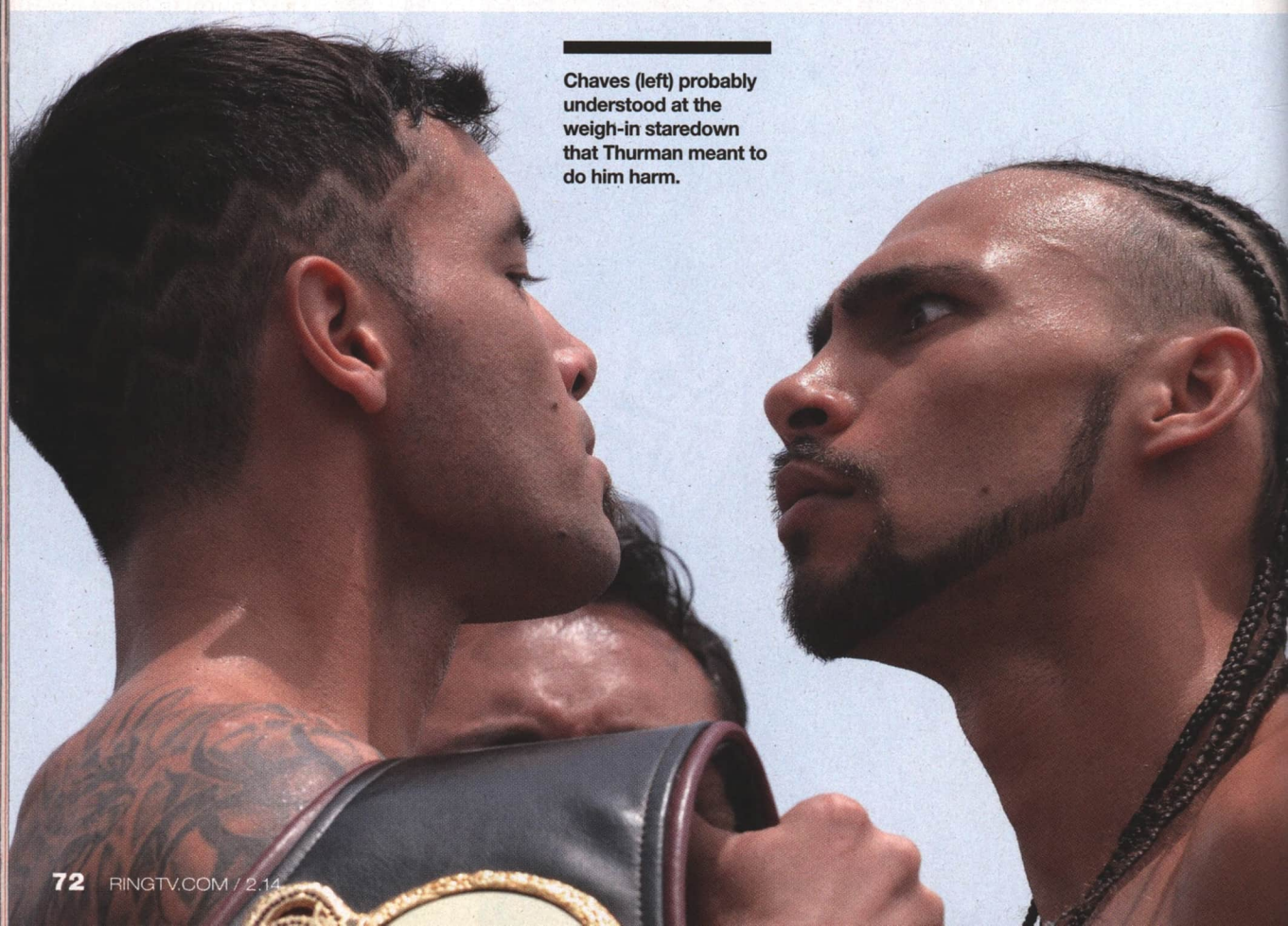
Birmingham became Thurman's head trainer when Getty, 63, succumbed to complications from diabetes in May 2009. By then, Birmingham knew Thurman was a potential world champion because Thurman's development included trips to training camps with Winky Wright, Jeff Lacy and Chad Dawson, the three best boxers Birmingham trained when he was an assistant trainer for Thurman.

Dawson is a former undisputed light heavyweight champion. Lacy was a hard-hitting ex-super middleweight titleholder. And Wright, a former junior middleweight champion, was once regarded as one of the top five fighters pound-for-pound in boxing.

"It was very beneficial," Birmingham said. "He was sparring with Chad Dawson when he was 16 years old and he was three or four weight classes lower. And he was holding his own against Winky and Jeff, all of them."

Thurman, now 25, treasures those experiences and is certain he wouldn't have developed into the professional fighter he has become without working alongside Wright, Lacy and Dawson. Wright was especially helpful because the skilled southpaw's trademark jab taugh Thurman how important that punch is in the evolution of a well-rounded fighter.

He didn't understand at first what was so special about Wright's jab, whether watching from ringside or on TV as Wright threw it at sparring partners and legendary opponents. It wasn't until Thurman sparred with Wright for the first time that he realized why Wright's jab was far different from most. Wright hit Thurman three times with his jab in the same combination, which led Thurman to study



Chaves (left) probably understood at the weigh-in staredown that Thurman meant to do him harm.

Jan Zaveck (left) was one of only two opponents to go the distance against Thurman.

Wright's technique and appreciate that one of the old pro's sharpest skills was that he didn't telegraph his punches, especially that jarring jab.

"That's one of the main reasons why I don't stress about any of these fights, and I have no fear of anybody in the Top 10," Thurman said. "Ever since I was 16 years old, I was in the ring with fighters like Winky Wright, Jeff Lacy and Antwun Echols, who fought Bernard Hopkins and was a tremendous puncher. I learned a lot from them, growing up in that gym. Andre Berto, we used to be sparring partners every other weekend when I was growing up here in Florida.

"Seeing fighters like (Berto) develop and go to the Olympics and become world champions, and knowing that at an early age I was going toe to toe and blow for blow with them, it just raised my confidence tremendously. At the age of 16, I also was working with Chad Dawson, prior to him winning a world title. Just to have acquaintances, close friends and gymmates that have made it, and knowing that you've worked with them, sweated with them and been in the ring with them, it just really raises my confidence.

"Because I know I've been in the ring with multiple world champions and I've always held my own with them ... I fear no man in the ring."

Thurman dropped out of Clearwater High School when he was 15, but the studious approach he has taken to his boxing career impresses Birmingham. He considers Thurman a mix between Wright and Lacy because Thurman is intelligent and patient, yet possesses power that has helped him produce one of boxing's best knockout ratios.

Birmingham was particularly pleased with Thurman's performance against Argentina's Diego Chaves on July 27. A methodical Thurman took his time and broke down a dangerous, previously unbeaten opponent on his way to a 10th-round knockout that accounted for his 21st win and 19th inside the distance. Beating Chaves helped Thurman secure a fight against Mexico's Jesus Soto Karass for the interim WBA welterweight title Dec. 14 in San Antonio.

Thurman's thorough victory over Chaves confirmed

LOSERS BECOME WINNERS

WBO junior middleweight titleholder Demetrius Andrade, undefeated featherweight Gary Russell Jr. and unbeaten heavyweight Deontay Wilder were among the winners six years ago at the 2008 U.S. Olympic Team Trials. Some of the losers have succeeded as pros, too. Among them:

DANNY GARCIA
Record: 27-0, 16 KOs
Status: RING/WBA/WBC junior welterweight champion

DANNY JACOBS
Record: 26-1, 23 KOs
Status: middleweight contender

ROBERT MARROQUIN
Record: 23-3, 16 KOs
Status: featherweight contender

KEITH THURMAN
Record: 21-0, 19 KOs
Status: welterweight contender

HYLON WILLIAMS JR.
Record: 16-1, 3 KOs
Status: lightweight prospect

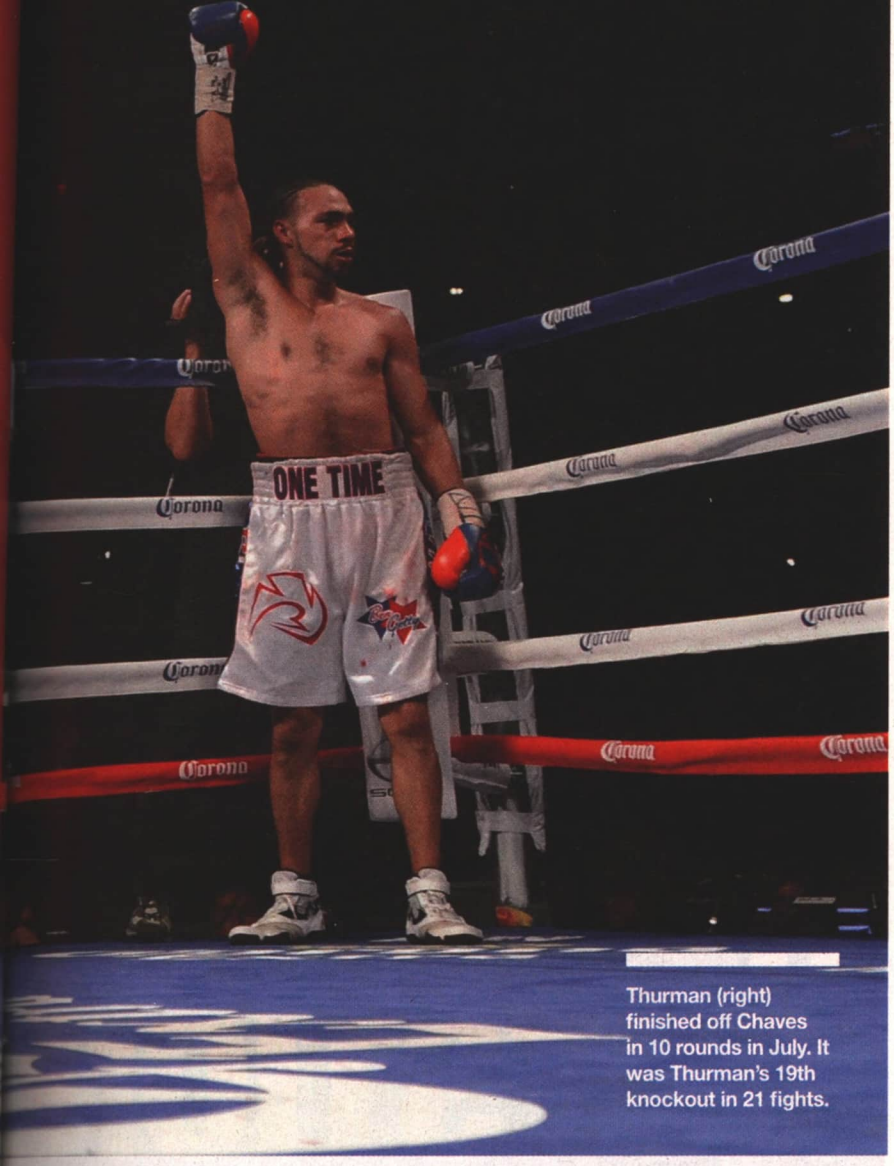
Birmingham's belief that his fighter is ready for any welterweight in boxing, including pound-for-pound king Floyd Mayweather Jr. Birmingham envisions Thurman becoming "a major superstar" now that he is a craftier fighter, as well as a punishing puncher.

"When I took over, I knew he could punch, but I knew he needed more boxing skills," said Birmingham, who won the Boxing Writers Association of America's "Trainer of the Year" award in 2004 and 2005. "So I started emphasizing the jab and movement, and he's worked hard on that. He's now become more of a complete fighter. I think he has experienced a major turnaround. I think he's a hundred percent better now.

"He uses feints more, he uses movement more. My theory in boxing is, and I tell all my guys, don't go five seconds without throwing at least a jab. Great fighters are very offensive, so he's working diligently on his approach to his opponent and setting up his jab, working off his movement."

While Birmingham has helped Thurman improve from a technical standpoint, Thurman's strong mental makeup was established by Getty, who worked with Ray Leonard and Roy Jones Jr. in their training camps. Thurman's mentor made him believe he could become a great fighter when he was an amateur. He reached the 152-pound final at the 2008 U.S. Olympic Team Trials in Houston, but he failed to make the team when he lost a decision to recently crowned WBO junior middleweight titleholder Demetrius Andrade, who defeated Thurman in three of their four amateur meetings.

Thurman turned pro two months after Andrade defeated him at the Trials in August 2007. He won his first eight pro bouts by first-round knockout. Getty died after Thurman's ninth professional fight, and although Thurman took it hard, he remained active, improved and eventually signed contracts with influential advisor Al Haymon



Thurman (right) finished off Chaves in 10 rounds in July. It was Thurman's 19th knockout in 21 fights.

Naoki Fukuda

and Oscar De La Hoya's Golden Boy Promotions.

A fracture and bone bruises to his right hand kept Thurman out of the ring from November 2010 to February 2012, but he regained momentum with wins over former welterweight champions Carlos Quintana (29-4, 23 KOs) and Jan Zaveck (33-3, 18 KOs), and later Chaves (22-1, 18 KOs).

THE RING ranks Thurman as the No. 8 welterweight in boxing, but the young knockout artist is sure he'll eventually occupy the top spot on that list.

"My passion, my desire and everything that Ben Getty instilled into me, I don't just want to climb the ladder," Thurman said. "I want to climb all the way to the top. I tell people all the time that not every fighter wants to be the best fighter in the world. Some fighters do, though. And I'm one of those fighters. So every day in the gym, I'm trying to be faster, I'm trying to be sharper, I'm trying to be smarter, so that I can become one of the legends in the sport of boxing."

Attaining the superstar status he seeks could require Thurman to beat Mayweather (45-0, 26 KOs). Thurman understands that a fight against Mayweather isn't imminent, but it isn't impossible, either. He'll probably need to win a few high-profile fights in 2014 to become a viable option before Mayweather's six-fight, 30-month contract with Showtime expires late in the summer of 2015.

The 5-foot-9 Thurman figures beating Adrien Broner, who considers himself the heir to Mayweather's throne, would put him on the fast track to challenging Mayweather's supremacy. He wants to battle Broner more than any boxer other than Mayweather, the only opponent Thurman gives a "50-percent chance of beating me." The mere thought of fighting Mayweather motivates Thurman every day he trains. As long as he keeps winning and continues to provide fan-friendly performances, Thurman expects that he'll get a shot at Mayweather before the undefeated five-division champion retires.

"That, to be honest, is the fight of my dreams," Thurman said. "Floyd Mayweather, in my own mind, is my only competition. So with that said, every day in the gym now I'm trying to beat 'Money.' Because, at the end of the day, if I step in the ring with him and if I take away his '0,' one legend will die out and another legend will be born.

"Whatever happens, if you see Keith Thurman and Floyd Mayweather go at it, you will see Floyd Mayweather in the toughest fight of Mayweather's career. It'll be tougher than his fight with Cotto. It'll be tougher than any of his fights at 135, 140. Win, lose or draw, I can guarantee you I will be the toughest opponent of his career."

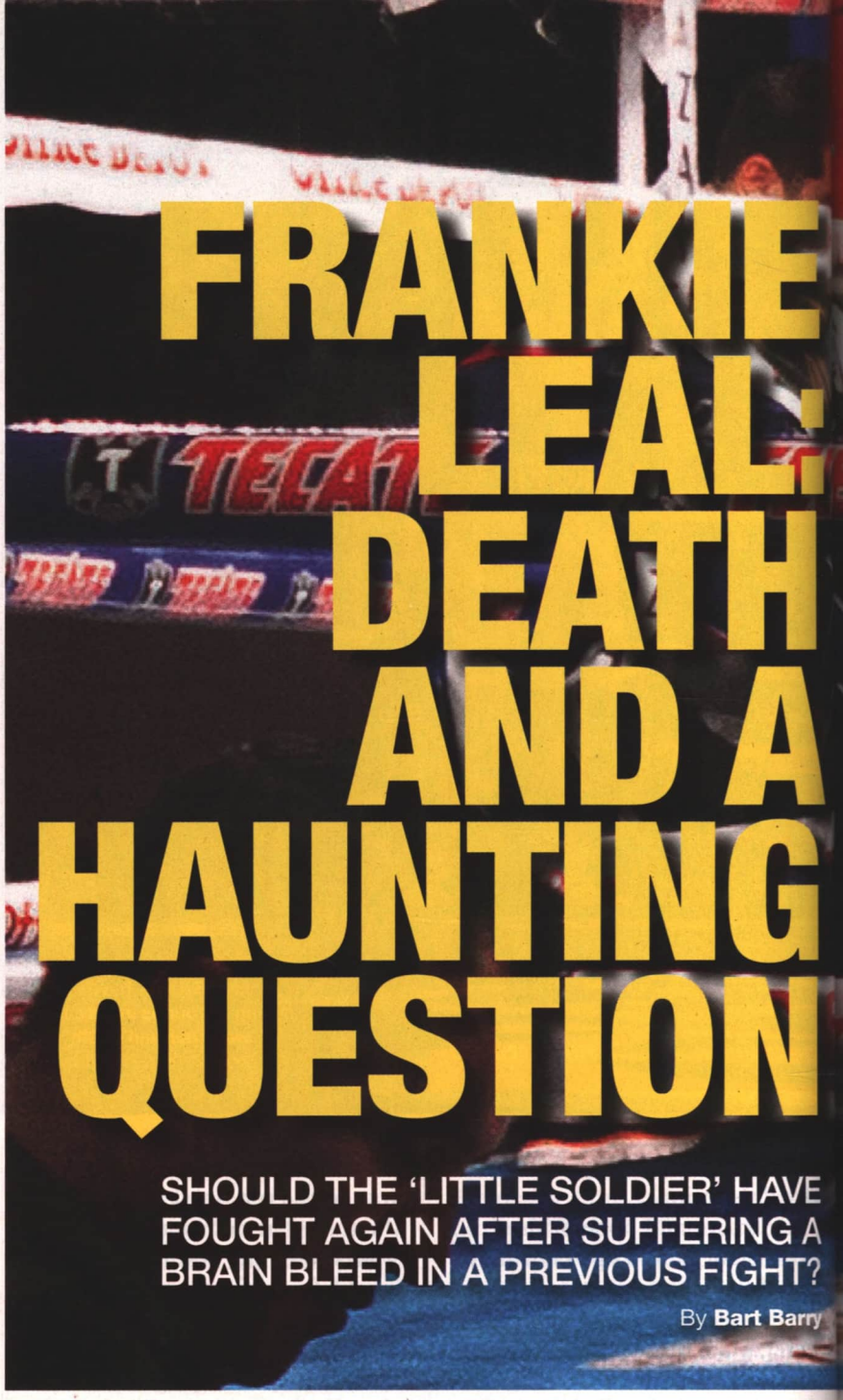
If that career-changing evening ever arrives, Thurman will close his eyes that night and draw motivation from the authoritative voice of the late trainer that made it all possible.

Keith Idec covers boxing for *The Record*, of Woodland Park, N.J.

SPECIAL PACKAGE

FATEFUL BLOWS

The sport was rocked recently by two tragic events, the death of Mexican Francisco Leal from punches he took in the ring and the beating of Magomed Abdusalamov that left the Russian in a coma. In a special package, THE RING looks back at both fights and raises the question: Could these tragedies have been avoided? Bart Barry writes about Leal while Gordon Marino gives his take on Abdusalamov.



FRANKIE LEAL: DEATH AND A HAUNTING QUESTION

SHOULD THE 'LITTLE SOLDIER' HAVE FOUGHT AGAIN AFTER SUFFERING A BRAIN BLEED IN A PREVIOUS FIGHT?

By **Bart Barry**

Mexican junior featherweight Francisco "Frankie" Leal, who went by the moniker "Little Soldier" and often wore camouflage trunks in his fights, died three days before his 27th birthday on Oct. 22, 2013, at UC San Diego Medical Center. Leal was removed from an artificial respiratory system three days after he was knocked out by his friend and former Olympic teammate Raul Hirales in Los Cabos, Mexico.

The events that led to Leal's death are not easily compartmentalized. There is no innocent victim in Leal's tragic tale or symmetrically located cast of villains. Leal died, finally, from the trauma of being struck in the head repeatedly with gloved fists.

Frankie Leal was in distress moments after his fight against Raul Hirales ended.

While there is not one person uniquely culpable for Leal's death, the event of his passing raises questions about prizefighting's obligations to its practitioners and prizefighters' obligations to their sport and fans.

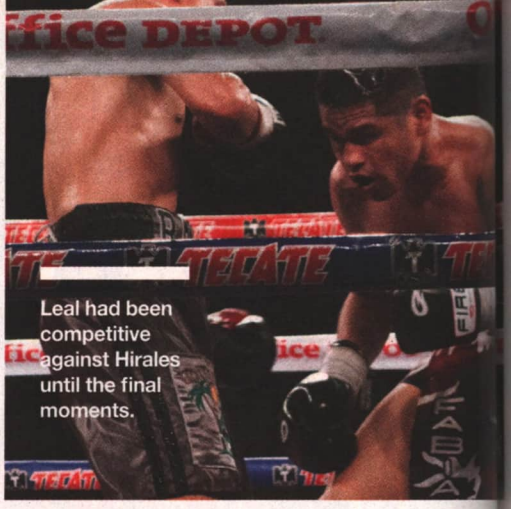
The match between Leal and Hirales, the co-main event of a card that featured Julio Cesar Chavez Sr.'s son Omar, was billed as a homecoming for Hirales, his first fight in Baja California Sur since 2008. It was a competitive eight-round match that Hirales led after seven. It was not a fight that saw either man genuinely imperiled until Leal backpedaled from Hirales with fewer than 15 seconds to go. A final right hand from Hirales, one that landed to the back of Leal's bowed head and followed a flush right uppercut, dropped Leal on the blue mat, where he rolled awkwardly.

Leal rose before referee Arturo Cota Sandoval counted seven and lurched forward into his corner's turnbuckle. He took a deep breath, reached for the top rope with his right glove, spun around and faced Cota Sandoval, who immediately stopped the match with Leal on his feet. Leal then crumpled against the red and white lettering of his corner's Tecate logo. A scramble to revive him ensued, a scramble that included Dr. Adolfo Rodriguez, head of medical services for the Boxing Commission of Los Cabos.

"It was very difficult, as I was so close to the ring. I saw how he fell, and I shouted, 'Frankie, get up!'" Leal's widow, Laura Coronel, recounted to the Mexico City daily *El Universal* six days after her husband's burial in his hometown of Mexicali. "After that, I saw how he slumped in the corner and how his eyes went white. And in that moment, I thought ... it's over."

Three minutes and 41 seconds after Leal crumpled in his corner, his limp body, without a cervical collar or oxygen mask in place, was hauled onto a stretcher, set atop a gurney and wheeled from ringside. Sports' oddest tradition ensued, as those gathered at Auditorio Municipal applauded the removal of an unconscious athlete from his field of competition.

"He knows," Coronel said of the couple's 4-year-old son. "He saw him in the hospital, and by himself he said, 'My daddy is sick, now he died.' So, yes, he says that his daddy fought and lost and died, but he does not understand very well the concept of death. He still tells me that he wants to see him and asks when he will return."



Leal had been competitive against Hirales until the final moments.

The scene at ringside in Los Cabos was not unlike what transpired in San Antonio 18½ months earlier in the main event of a Top Rank card that featured the return of former middleweight champion Kelly Pavlik. On March 31, 2012, Leal was knocked out by Russian featherweight Evgeny Gradovich in the final 45 seconds of their 10-round match. Then, too, Leal went down and rolled awkwardly, rose before the count of seven and had his fight waved off immediately by referee Rafael Ramos, an official needing no more than a glance to know Leal could not continue.

"His body basically collapsed," said Brad Goodman, the Top Rank matchmaker who made Leal's fight with Gradovich. "He was hurt real, real bad in San Antonio."

Then, too, Leal slumped on a stool near his corner, did not respond properly to a ringside doctor and was promptly removed on a gurney from Illusions Theater, a makeshift stage festooned with pastel-lighted bunting along the northern edge of the Alamodome. That night marked the debut of Leija-Battah Promotions, former junior lightweight titlist Jesse James Leija's first show as a promoter.

"Just a brutal, brutal fight," said Leija. "(Frankie) got in trouble, went to the hospital. We saw him the next day, or two days later, and he seemed (to be) in great spirits. He told us he had a 2-year-old, and I was like, 'Man, you really want to keep doing this? It's dangerous.'

"He goes, 'Yeah, ... I don't think I'm going to do this anymore.' And I don't know if he meant it, or was just saying it that day."

Even before Leal had completed his stay at Metropolitan Methodist Hospital in downtown San Antonio, the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation suspended him indefinitely. Fewer than six months later, on Sept. 12, 2012, Leal took the magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) test used to detect bleeding in the brain. It showed no lasting effects from his fight with Gradovich. And on Nov. 29, 2012, after Leal passed a neurological examination, Texas removed his suspension.

"They took care of his blood clot with medicine, they didn't have to operate on him, and that was great," said Leija. "But then to hear he fought again?"

Forty-four days after his Texas suspension was lifted, Leal took part in his first of five post-suspension fights in Mexico, scoring a fourth-round knockout over junior lightweight Gilberto Perez in the state of Hidalgo. Forty-two days after that, Leal returned to Hidalgo and stopped Mexican lightweight Tomas Sierra in three rounds.

"I'm of the philosophy that if a fighter has suffered a cerebral hemorrhage, they should never fight again," said Dr. Margaret Goodman, former head of the Nevada Medical Advisory Board and Nevada State Athletic Commission (NSAC) chief ringside physician. "So few fighters suffer bleeds that they must have some predisposition. So to put them in harm's way again, whether they fought one more time or five more times, is just playing Russian roulette with their life."

On April 4, 2013, having received a standard application from Leal that included an MRI, a physical, blood work and an eye examination, the Nevada State Athletic Commission licensed him to fight in Nevada during the calendar year 2013.

"Medicine has improved to the point where it doesn't have to be

MORTALITY RATE: A STUDY

The University of California, San Diego, Department of Neurosurgery conducted a study of boxing fatalities between 1950 and 2007 using data from the Velasquez Boxing Fatality Collection. Here are some findings:

- 339 professional boxers died in the ring between 1950 and 2007.
- The average age of the deceased among professionals was 24.
- 79 percent of those who died lost by knockout (64 by KO and 15 by TKO).
- A higher percentage of deaths occurred in the lower weight classes.
- 61 percent of the preterminal events that led to death took place in the ring, 17 percent in the locker room and 22 percent outside the fight venue.
- The mortality rate declined significantly after 1983, the year title bouts were reduced from 15 to 12 rounds. 219 occurred between 1950 and 1983 and only 120 after 1983. However, the study found no relation between the decline in mortality to reduced rounds per fight. Instead, it is attributed to modern fighters' fewer number of total bouts, as well as more stringent safety measures.
- 15 to 40 percent of retired fighters have symptoms of chronic brain injury.
- Another study equated a punch with being hit by a bowling ball swung at 20 mph.

so prohibitive," said Keith Kizer, executive director of NSAC. "There's always brain trauma. Every fighter suffers some form of brain trauma. That's the nature of the sport. The question is: Should any type of bleed by itself be an automatic disqualification of a fighter's career? And the answer is no. Medically speaking, it is no."

Leal never did fight in Nevada, and that marked an important distinction: Licensing a fighter is not the same as approving him to fight.

"We do not check a fighter's record and suspensions until he is scheduled to fight here," explained NSAC's Deisi Negron.

Fifteen days after receiving his Nevada license, Leal fought in Mexico City and lost an eight-round split decision to Mexican junior featherweight Cesar Juarez. Two months later, Leal returned to his home state of Baja California and won an eight-round unanimous decision over experienced Mexican bantamweight German Meraz in the city of Rosarito. With four months' rest and a full training camp behind him, Leal then made his fatal last match with Hirales on Oct. 19.

No one who saw Leal wheeled from ringside in San Antonio expected to see him fight again, and promoter Top Rank did not put him on another of its cards, despite Leal's subsequently clean tests and unflagging enthusiasm.

"I would see him at the fights in Vegas," said Goodman, the Top Rank matchmaker. "And he was always looking for a fight.

RING DEATHS

Boxers (in bold) who have died after a professional bout since the beginning of 2011, including opponent, date of fight, country in which the fight took place, weight division, result, age at death and nationality of the deceased. Note: The chart does not include deaths resulting from training, sparring, amateur fights or other activities connected to boxing.

FRANCISCO LEAL
Opponent: Raul Hirales
Date: Oct. 19, 2013
Site: Mexico
Division: Junior featherweight
Result: Hirales KO 8
Age: 26
Nationality: Mexico

MICHAEL NORGROVE
Opponent: Tom Bowen
Date: March 28, 2013
Site: U.K. (London)
Division: Middleweight
Result: No contest
Age: 31
Nationality: Zambia (lived in London)

TUGABUS SAKTI
Opponent: Ichal Tobido
Date: Jan. 26, 2013
Site: Indonesia
Division: Junior flyweight
Result: Tobido TKO 8
Age: 17
Nationality: Indonesia

OKSON PALUE
Opponent: Gerry Dio Toisuta
Date: Nov. 16, 2012
Site: Indonesia
Division: Flyweight
Result: Draw 6
Age: 19
Nationality: Indonesia

ERMELITO ALIM JR.
Opponent: Ahl Grumo
Date: June 19, 2012
Site: Philippines
Division: Junior featherwreight
Result: Alim UD 10
Age: 21
Nationality: Philippines

WILLMAN RODRIGUEZ GOMEZ
Opponent: Karihi Tehei
Date: May 4, 2012
Site: French Polynesia
Division: Lightweight
Result: Tehei KO 1
Age: 29
Nationality: Peru (lived in New Zealand)

MUHAMMAD AFRIZAL
Opponent: Irvan Marbun
Date: March 31, 2012
Site: Indonesia
Division: Junior lightweight
Result: Marbun UD 12
Age: 30
Nationality: Indonesia

KARLO MAQUINTO
Opponent: Mark Joseph Costa
Date: Jan. 28, 2012
Site: Philippines
Division: Junior bantamweight
Result: Draw 8
Age: 21
Nationality: Philippines

ROMAN SIMAKOV
Opponent: Sergey Kovalev
Date: Dec. 5, 2011
Site: Russia
Division: Light heavyweight
Result: Kovalev KO 7
Age: 27
Nationality: Russia

ANELE MAKHWELO
Opponent: Themba Ntsele
Date: Oct. 7, 2011
Site: South Africa
Division: Flyweight
Result: Ntsele TKO 9
Age: 22
Nationality: South Africa

ANTHONY JONES
Opponent: Quincy Palmer
Date: Jan 29, 2011
Site: U.S. (Arkansas)
Division: Heavyweight
Result: Palmer KO 2
Age: 27
Nationality: U.S.

Source: Courtesy of Joseph Svinth, who maintains the Manuel Velazquez Collection of boxing injuries at http://ejmas.com/jcs/velazquez. Velazquez, reportedly an anti-boxing activist, spent much of life chronicling ring fatalities.

But in my conscience, I just couldn't do it. I didn't want to go through that whole episode again because I really, really thought he was going to die in San Antonio.

"I was shaken up. For weeks."

Should Leal have been allowed to fight again? Texas suspended him, and he took a half-year off, felt good enough to return and had those feelings both scientifically and medically confirmed by an MRI and a neurologist. If American matchmakers were rightly hesitant about putting him in another fight, Mexican matchmakers just as rightly saw one of their own – a rugged, affable and well-liked southpaw in his physical prime – asking for an opportunity to continue in his livelihood. Texas and Nevada could have been more stringent in their suspension and licensing procedures, but it is unlikely a Mexican prizefighter like Leal, having passed a battery of tests in 2012 and built a record of 3-1 (2 KOs) in 2013, would have been denied a spot on a Baja California Sur card, regardless of what Texas or Nevada opined.

Should Leal have allowed himself to fight again?

"You can't stop yourself as a fighter," said Leija. "You tell me I can't fight? Heck yeah, I can fight, and I'm going to show you! You have to have someone there who loves you to tell you, 'No, that's enough.'"

Boxing is what Leal did for a living. If his final, $5,000 purse was not within the same compensation

universe as Floyd Mayweather Jr.'s or Manny Pacquiao's, it nevertheless represented an hourly wage far greater than what most of Leal's countrymen make on either side of the U.S.-Mexico border.

What obligations do the sport of boxing and its fans have to boxing's practitioners? Immediately following news of Leal's hospitalization, the usual recriminations began in earnest, both in the United States and Mexico. And Leal's manager, Miguel Barraza, has initiated legal proceedings in Mexico against the Boxing Commission of Los Cabos, Dr. Adolfo Rodriguez and the local chapter of the Red Cross, for alleged medical negligence.

But finally and just as importantly, if not as frequently asked, what obligations do boxing's practitioners have to their sport and fans? No one gathered in Los Cabos on a Saturday night in October or at home watching the fight on TV Azteca expected or wished to see Leal sagging lifelessly on a stool, unable to raise his head or eyelids. An athlete has no more right to give his life in a sporting event than fans have to ask it of him. To the coming litany of prohibitions some will use Leal's death to demand, add one more: Fighters expressing a willingness to die in the ring.

"I always cringe when I hear that expression, 'I'm willing to die in the ring' or 'I'm willing to leave it all in the ring,'" said Las Vegas matchmaker Sean Gibbons. "I really wish guys would come up with something different to say."

Tempering the language that has accrued to boxing's warrior ethic would be a good tribute indeed to Frankie "Little Soldier" Leal. RING

WHEN IS ENOUGH ENOUGH?

THE FATE OF **MAGOMED ABDUSALAMOV** SUGGESTS THAT CORNERMEN AND OFFICIALS — AS WELL AS THE FIGHTERS THEMSELVES — STILL DON'T KNOW WHEN TO CALL IT A NIGHT

By **Gordon Marino**

Magomed Abdusalamov (right) took everything Mike Perez threw at him and never stopped fighting back.

Magomed Abdusalamov and Mike Perez, two undefeated heavyweight contenders, clashed on Nov. 2 in New York City. It was a pitched battle on the order of Gatti vs. Ward, but Abdusalamov, who had boasted 18 knockouts in as many fights, got the worst of it. He broke his hand in the first round. His nose was busted in the second. His eyelid was cut in the seventh. By then, the side of his face was so swollen and contorted that the HBO team suggested it might be his orbital bone (eye socket) rather than his nose that was broken. At one point, the Russian fighter asked with concern, "Is my face all right?" By mid-fight, Perez had started to pull away from Abdusalamov, who had never been past the fifth round. In the later rounds, two doctors looked in at him over the ring apron. With his hand a node of pain and his face like that of a gargoyle, Abdusalamov continued attacking to the very end. Even in the final three minutes, the injured fighter kept pressing and managed to reel off 31 punches. It was not nearly enough. Perez earned a unanimous decision.

After the decision was announced, Abdusalamov complimented his opponent and eventually made his way by cab to Roosevelt Hospital to get patched up. There he complained of headaches and dizziness. The doctors detected a blood clot on his brain and took him into surgery. Very sadly, Abdusalamov, a father of three who was trying to make a new life in the States, suffered a stroke the next day and was placed into an induced coma. Late in November, the doctors brought him out of the

coma but he began running a high fever and he was put back under. His life hung in the balance at press time.

"All we can do is pray that he survives, pray that he can come out of this and lead a normal life," Boris Grinburg, his grief stricken manager, told me.

Abdusalamov never visited the canvas and attacked relentlessly throughout the battle. So while the New York State Athletic Commission was reviewing the bout, there is no obvious reason to believe that Benjy Esteves, the referee, was wrong to allow the contest to continue.

"I have seen six deaths in the ring," HBO commentator Jim Lampley said a few days after the bout, "and almost all of those tragic deaths involved at least one of two things: one guy continually getting hit with sharp punches that are not in and of themselves enough for a knockout, and the doctors missing something."

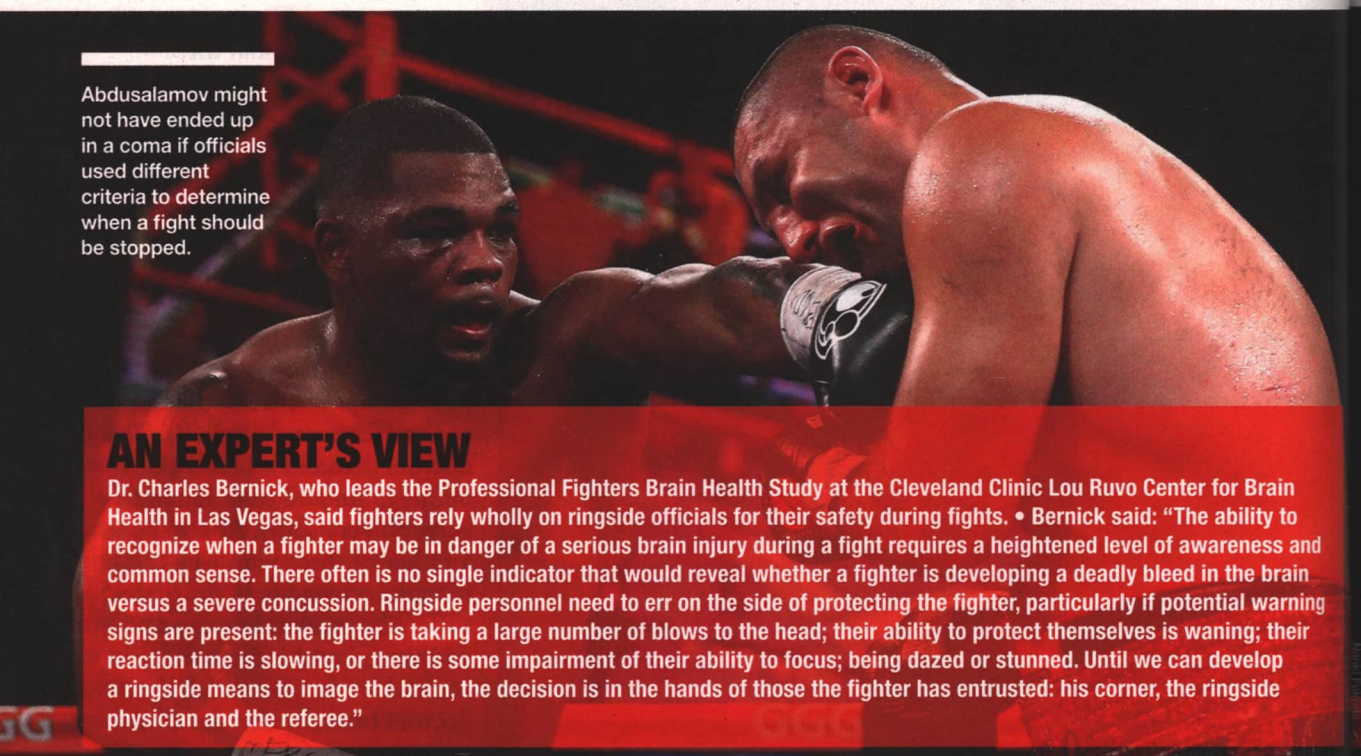
There can be no doubt about the sharp shots that Abdusalamov absorbed, but did the ringside physicians miss something? Nathan Lewkowicz, Abdusalamov's promoter, hinted that the fact that Abdusalamov was speaking Russian might have made it difficult for the doctors and referee to gauge Abdusalamov's level of distress. But there were interpreters in the corner. Lampley observed that when such punishment is being dished out, the ring doctors ought to come through the ropes and get a good, close-up look at the boxers they are trying to protect.

It would be useful to know how frequently state commissions reprimand or dismiss ring doctors, but one thing is certain: After the beating Abdusalamov endured, he should have been rushed by ambulance directly to the emergency room.

I was unable to reach John David Jackson, Abdusalamov's trainer. However, his deeply saddened cutman, Melvin Rivas, was willing to speak. "Mago," he said, "was responding to everything we were saying. He never told us about the hand. We never felt like we had to ask him if he wanted to continue. He's such a warrior. He was coming forward. He is a big puncher. ... When I jumped in the ring, I touched his nose and he didn't flinch. Didn't seem to be in terrible pain."

Should this tragedy have been averted? I think so, but it would have required overriding at least one criterion that exists in the public mind for halting a contest. Boxing fans and not a few officials seem to believe that as long as a distressed fighter is responsive to questions and still mounting an offense, the bout should be allowed to continue. And yet, just because a boxer continues to push leather, it does not mean that he or she is not in dire danger. There are levels of risk that are unacceptable.

I recently spoke with two of the most respected third men in boxing, Jack Reiss and Joe



Abdusalamov might not have ended up in a coma if officials used different criteria to determine when a fight should be stopped.

AN EXPERT'S VIEW

Dr. Charles Bernick, who leads the Professional Fighters Brain Health Study at the Cleveland Clinic Lou Ruvo Center for Brain Health in Las Vegas, said fighters rely wholly on ringside officials for their safety during fights. • Bernick said: "The ability to recognize when a fighter may be in danger of a serious brain injury during a fight requires a heightened level of awareness and common sense. There often is no single indicator that would reveal whether a fighter is developing a deadly bleed in the brain versus a severe concussion. Ringside personnel need to err on the side of protecting the fighter, particularly if potential warning signs are present: the fighter is taking a large number of blows to the head; their ability to protect themselves is waning; their reaction time is slowing, or there is some impairment of their ability to focus; being dazed or stunned. Until we can develop a ringside means to image the brain, the decision is in the hands of those the fighter has entrusted: his corner, the ringside physician and the referee."

Cortez. "When I start to worry that a fighter is looking like he might be in trouble," Reiss said, "there is a set of criteria that I immediately begin going through in my head. 1. Can he win it mathematically? 2. Does he have a puncher's chance ? 3. Does he really want to go on? 4. What is best for boxing? 5. Does the fighter have any noticeable physical damage?" Trainers should have a similar, well-rehearsed checklist in their minds, a list that will help them keep their priorities in order in the white heat of the moment.

One of the criteria that can lead to problems is "the puncher's chance." Doubtless this hope was flashing like a neon sign in the minds of Abdusalamov's cornermen. After all, their man had sleeping powder in his mitts. But puncher's chance or no, the ref and corner must focus on the punches absorbed and the havoc those punches can bring to the brain.

In the middleweight title bout that followed the Abdusalamov vs. Perez tussle, Curtis Stevens was getting hammered by Gennady Golovkin's hands of stone. After the eighth round, Stevens's corner wisely ran up the white flag. They said "enough" even though it was a title fight and it would have been reasonable for them to think that the powerful Stevens would carry a "puncher's chance" into the later rounds.

All it takes is one punch, right? Right. And all it takes is one punch to add one more name to the long, sad ledger of boxing fatalities and fighters suffering from brain injury. Indeed, over a six-week period, we lost Frankie Leal after a bout in Mexico and three boxers have had brain surgery as a result of beatings taken in the ring. It is too much.

Hall-of-fame referee Joe Cortez said ringside officials must act quickly and decisively.

"Time is of the essence where possible brain injuries are concerned," he said. "... There are procedural changes that would save some ticks off the clock, like waving the count off in an obvious KO situation, not permitting interviews after knockouts and taking KO victims directly to the emergency room." (Something that clearly should have happened with Abdusalamov.) Cortez also suggests that referees not be required to pick up the score cards from judges between rounds, "since that costs us 15-20 seconds that could be spent better determining what kind of a condition a boxer is in."

Cortez and Reiss concur that trainers are the ones who should know better than anyone else when their fighter is getting to that place in which, Reiss said, "the boxer cannot intelligently protect him or herself." After all, trainers understand best what kind of condition their fighter is in and what their baseline of responsiveness is when healthy. Of course, the cornerman who puts the health of his fighter above all else has to be willing – a la Eddie Futch in Ali-Frazier III – to face the ire of the boxer when that white towel flies over the ropes. But at least that fighter will be healthy enough to campaign again. And as Mike Tyson once told me, "You will also save his confidence, because in a few weeks he'll start thinking that he could have won if it weren't for his wimpy trainer stopping the fight."

As the recent Gatti-Ward HBO documentary attests, American audiences swoon over two men who are willing to absorb a lifetime's worth of punishment in order to have their hand raised. Indeed, even with all we know about head injuries, we lavish more praise on the boxer who recklessly puts his brain cells at risk than on a pure sweet scientist such as Guillermo Rigondeaux. As Bob Dylan crooned in "Who Killed Davey Moore": "We just wanted to see a good old fashioned fight," not a boxing exhibition.

After his recent decision victory over Canelo Alvarez, Floyd Mayweather Jr. said, "I truly believe I could have banged with Canelo and eventually knocked him out in probably the eighth round. But I could have taken a lot of punishment also, which could have messed my career up to where I wouldn't have been able to fight four more fights. ... It hurts my feelings to look at (Muhammad) Ali's situation. He fought for the people, to please them. You've got to fight to please yourself first. Self-preservation." Many boxing fiends will roll their eyes at Mayweather's admission. One commented: "And that's why I will never pay 60 bucks to watch Mayweather fight!" But Mayweather is adamant, saying "I don't see anything cool about taking punishment." Yet boxing audiences seem to, as long as we are not the ones getting our eye sockets smashed in.

Boxers are adults, and when the gatekeepers fall asleep at their station, fighters have to have the mettle to "tap out." Though it goes against their deeply ingrained instincts and all the rhetoric that has been ringing in their ears for years about never quitting, fighters must be able to say what the dauntless Mike Alvarado whispered in his battle with Ruslan Provodikov: "That's enough" – at least for tonight.

RYOTA MURATA: A BRIGHT TOMORROW?

Ryota Murata stands out among Japanese fighters for a number of reasons.

JAPANESE MIDDLEWEIGHT GOLD MEDALIST IS TAKING AN UNUSUAL ROUTE IN HIS PURSUIT OF STARDOM

By **Norm Frauenheim**

Japan's boxing history includes an entertaining fantasy, a pulp-fiction character with more incarnations than *Rocky* has sequels. Joe Yabuki, the protaganist of a comic book series first published in 1968 called *Ashita no Joe*, went on to appear in a TV series, movies, and video games. There was even a real-life imitation in Joichiro "Joe" Tatsuyoshi, a bantamweight who was wildly popular in Japan in the 1990s.

As a story, it's about as believable as Sylvester Stallone's Balboa in his blood-and-guts fantasy against Apollo Creed. Yet you don't need to read the subtitles to know Joe Yabuki. He's that familiar kid, poor and alone, with no chance at a tomorrow until he steps into the ring.

In English or Japanese, from Philadelphia to Tokyo, it's a boxing theme repeated often enough to be understood in any language and on any street corner. It's even in the title, *Ashita no Joe*. Translation: Tomorrow's Joe.

It's the tomorrow part that applies to Ryoto Murata. So far, Murata is no ordinary Joe.

He has a Top Rank contract and a 2012 Olympic gold medal – Japan's second boxing gold ever and the nation's first since 1964. He's also the first Japanese middleweight to win gold. The first of anything is news, of course. But Murata's gold takes on some added significance for reasons that have transformed him into an athlete who promoter Bob Arum says is as popular as any in Japan.

"He's a huge celebrity," said Arum, who signed Murata in early June and will work with Teiken as his co-promoter.

Arum has never resisted an opportunity to exaggerate. It's

part of his job definition. But huge sports celebrities in Japan are either sumo wrestlers or baseball players. It's where Texas Rangers right-hander Yu Darvish learned how to throw a slider and New York Yankees outfielder Ichiro Suzuki learned how to hit just about everything.

If, however, Murata can even begin to approach their popularity, Arum has found a key prospect in a sophisticated market important to Top Rank's emerging business plan. It's global. Arum is signing prospects the way the U.K. once collected colonies. He already had gold medalists from Russia (Egor Mekhontsev) and Ukraine (Vasyl Lomachenko), and a few months after signing Murata, Arum signed Esquiva Falcao, a Brazilian who lost to Murata for the gold medal at the London Olympics. At this rate, the sun will never set on the old British Empire or Top Rank.

Murata is another potential way for Arum to sell the sport throughout Asia, where Top Rank has already staged three cards, including the Nov. 23 pay-per-view show featuring Filipino Manny Pacquiao vs. Brandon Rios in Macau, China's version of the Las Vegas strip. Unlike Chinese junior flyweight Zou Shiming, a three-time Olympian and two-time gold medalist (also signed with Top Rank), Murata comes from a country with a boxing history and infrastructure.

At one level or another, the Japanese have been answering an opening bell ever since watching American sailors box on the decks of Navy ships when Admiral Matthew Perry's fleet landed in 1854. Only four decades ago, boxing in China was still against a law enforced by Mao Zedong.

Top Rank is trying to create the Chinese market from the ground up. It's a little bit like trying to find the next Michael Phelps in a country without a swimming pool. Compare that to what Murata brings to the table. He already has a fan base, which Top Rank says has multiplied with casual fans excited about a rare gold medal for Japan.

"More people watch the Olympics than boxing," Murata said through an interpreter while training in Las Vegas at the Top Rank Gym. "If you win a gold medal, many people in Japan know you, maybe more for that medal than what sport you won it in. An Olympic medal, it's for all of the people."

An alliance with Japan's biggest advertising and media company, Dentsu, is a sure sign of Murata's widespread popularity. Dentsu signed on to manage Murata. The corporate giant already has some heavyweight clients, including Kraft, Verizon, Pfizer, JP Morgan Chase and *The Wall Street Journal*. There's not a loser on that list. In Murata, Dentsu must see a way to extend its reach into sports marketing.

According to the Asian edition of *The Economist,* Dentsu purchased the broadcast rights for the 2014 Sochi Winter Games and the 2016 Rio de Janeiro Summer Games for a large swath of Asia. The deal with the International Olympic Committee (IOC) includes Afghanistan, Brunei, Burma, Cambodia, East Timor, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Iran, Laos, Malaysia, Mongolia, Papua New Guinea, the Philippines, Singapore, Taiwan, Thailand and Vietnam.

Dentsu was reported to have been a major player in bringing the last World Swimming Championships to Shanghai and the last World Track & Field Championships to South Korea. Nobody knows how Murata will fare as a pro, but his manager is a proven commodity. Murata is the prospect, but his alliance with Dentsu is the piece that made it a no-brainer for Arum and his Asian enterprise.

In what also appears to be a good fit, Murata shares Arum's global perspective. That's a departure from many of the best Japanese boxers before him. For the most part, they stayed in Japan and fought within a system that contractually ties boxers to gyms and is strictly regulated by the Japanese Boxing Commission (JBC).

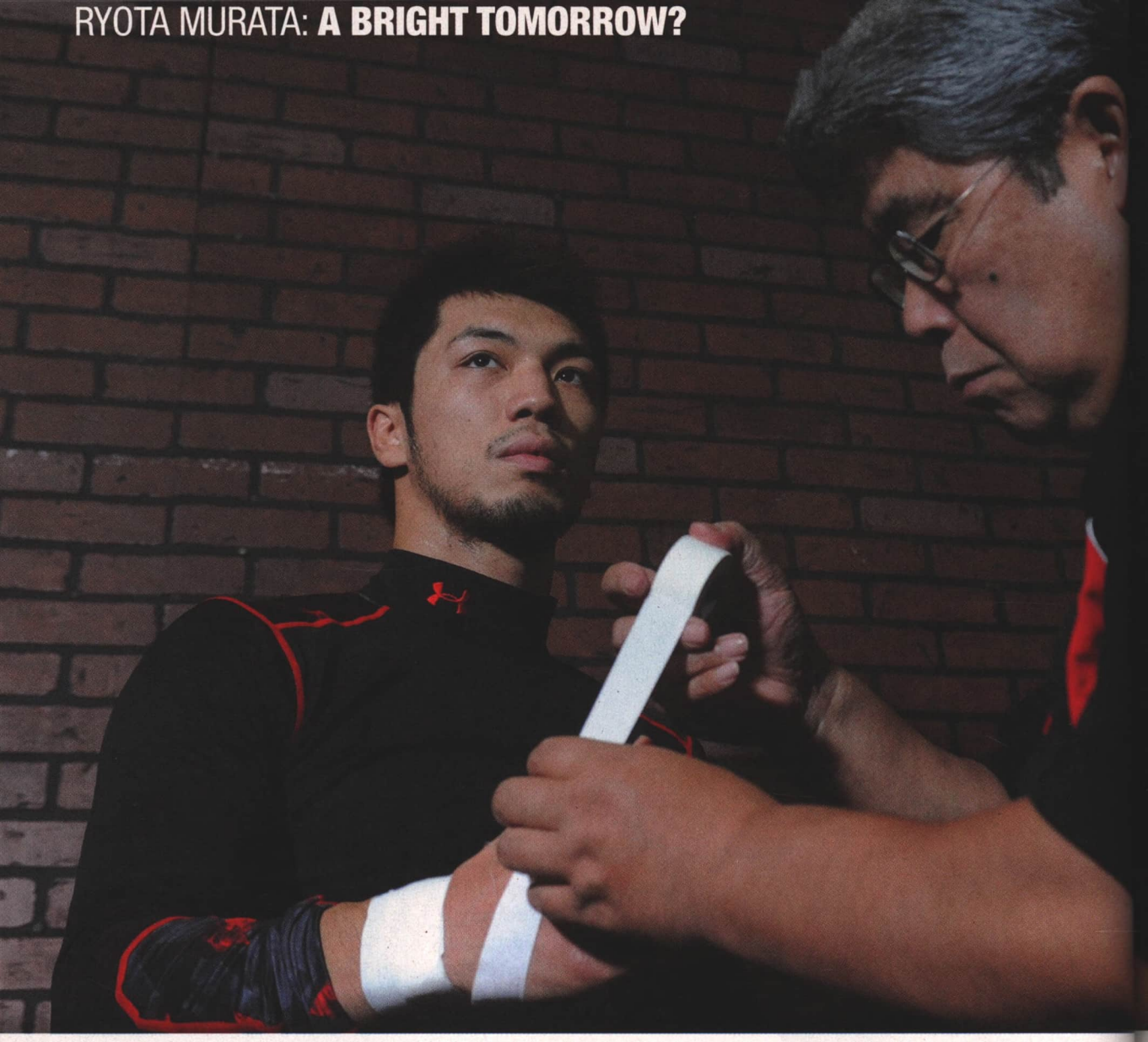
In part, that explains why the International Boxing Hall of Fame in Canastota, N.Y., includes only one Japanese boxer – Masahiko "Fighting" Harada, a world bantamweight champion in the 1960s and the only man to beat Brazil's Eder Jofre, one of the greatest bantamweights ever. Harada beat Jofre twice, first in Nagoya and then in Tokyo.

In a 62-bout career, Harada (55-7, 22 KOs) fought outside of Japan only three times – Bangkok, Los Angeles and Sydney. The great Harada might have remained anonymous if the greater Jofre had not been willing to travel. Imagine Gennady Golovkin. If he were a Japanese fighter, Golovkin might just be a name in Asia with an unbeaten record and a closet full of acronym-sanctioned title belts. But the well-traveled Kazakhstani probably wouldn't be the middleweight known and feared by so many, including Murata.

"He is the best," Murata quickly said in English.

In any language, it's understood that Golovkin and Pacquiao have become the model for what an international generation hopes to accomplish. There will always be

Murata was only the second Japanese boxer to win an Olympic gold medal.



hometown decisions, but the real money and fame are only there for those willing to take a risk and travel.

"I'm not thinking that it's fine to be doing well just in Japan," Murata told Japanese reporters when he announced in April that he was going pro. "I think that you'd be considered a real deal by doing it on the world stage."

Murata has already proven his road readiness. Wins are hard enough away from home for any fighter, regardless of nationality. For an amateur from a country with a national anthem seldom heard during medal ceremonies at the Olympic boxing venue, it's more like road kill.

'I'M NOT THINKING THAT IT'S FINE TO BE DOING WELL JUST IN JAPAN. I THINK THAT YOU'D BE CONSIDERED A REAL DEAL BY DOING IT ON THE WORLD STAGE.'
— RYOTA MURATA

Right or wrong, tradition is sometimes worth a few points from amateur judges influenced by what they hear. In London, some of those judges heard the Japanese anthem for the first time when Murata stepped onto the podium's top pedestal after a 14-13 decision over Falcao. In 1964, Japan's gold was a hometown victory for a bantamweight named Takao Sakurai at the Tokyo Games, where an American heavyweight named Joe Frazier also won gold.

In part, Murata has no choice. He has to travel if he hopes to carve out a boxing career. His

Murata has no choice but to train and fight abroad because of his size.

BIG HAUL
Top Rank strikes gold by signing four 2012 Olympic champions. To read the story, go to http://bit.ly/1bdPYBz or scan the QR code.

weight dictates it. There are few middleweights in Japan. The JBC has its own ratings and Murata is already No. 1 after winning his pro debut, a second-round stoppage of journeyman Akio Shibata on Aug. 25 in Tokyo.

But Murata is among only eight middleweights ranked in the JBC's 160-pound category. There are no light heavyweights, no cruiserweights and a only a handful of heavyweights. Most of the ranked fighters are in the smallest divisions – from 108 pounds to 126.

To pursue a major middleweight title, Murata says he has to go international. If he wins one, he'd be only the second Japanese middleweight to do so. Shinji Takehara was the first, winning the World Boxing Association's version in 1995.

"This is a worldwide weight class," Murata said. "And there are so many superstars. I'm training hard in order to be one of those."

It's also why he trained in Las Vegas with well-traveled cornerman Miguel Diaz for his second scheduled bout on Dec. 6 in Tokyo against Dave Peterson (13-1, 8 KOs), a left-handed American who had fought all of his bouts in Minnesota, Wisconsin, South Dakota and Pennsylvania. In Las Vegas, there are more sparring partners who are similar in size to the 6-foot, 160-pound Murata.

"Yes, there is just a limit to how many partners I can find in Japan," said Murata, who also is seeking to put an edge on an aggressive style he says he prefers.

It's that aggressiveness, combined with maturity, that gives Murata an advantage over most of the Olympians who have just embarked on their pro careers, Arum says. Murata, reportedly 119-19 as an amateur, is 27. On average, he's about five years older than most of the boxers who fought at the 2012 Olympics. And he has what Arum sees as an element that sells these days: He goes for knockouts.

"He's exciting and, according to the people who know, he's ready for the pros," said Arum, who plans for Murata to also fight in Macau on Feb. 22. "He fought like a professional when he was an amateur. He had that style. He bangs.

"He really can fight. Most Olympic athletes, because of the scoring system, fight defensively. But Murata fought like a pro in the Olympics."

Arum believes it won't be long before Murata gets his title shot.

"Sure, he needs some seasoning," said Arum, who mentioned Golovkin, Sergio Martinez and Julio Cesar Chavez Jr. as possible Murata foes. "But in maybe a year and half, he could be ready to fight for a world title. He's a cut above most young fighters."

As for his style, Murata says he was inspired by his childhood favorite, Puerto Rican great Felix Trinidad. He laughs when asked if was born with an aggressive streak.

"No, no, no," he said. "My mother (Kazuko) is an educator. My dad (Seiji) is a government employee, a social worker for people who have been abused. My parents are gentle people. But when I was young and just starting to box, I loved Trinidad and I would try to watch as many of his fights as I could.

"He was exciting and went after that knockout. In the gym, I tried to be like him. Unfortunately, I don't have the left hand that he had."

But he does appear to have a potent right. In his debut, Murata's aggressiveness was immediately evident. Successive right hands knocked down Shibata in the opening round. Late in the second, Murata threw the right behind an accurate jab, knocking him into the ropes. A dazed Shibata slumped and appeared defenseless. The referee ended it at 2:24 of the round.

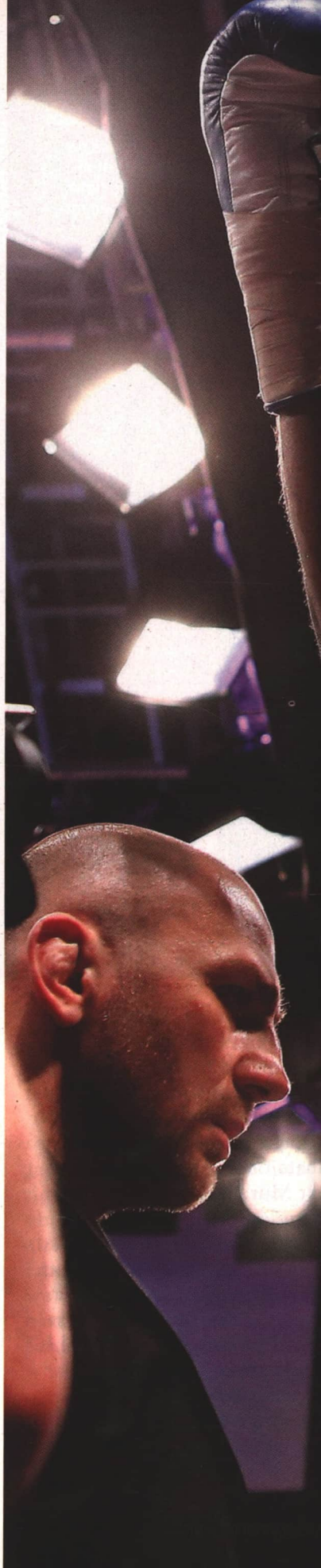
The crowd, including a jubilant Arum, celebrated and presented gifts to Murata. It was as if the audience wanted to thank him for the gold they hadn't seen in such a long time.

Maybe it was the beginning of a real Tomorrow.

DAVID HAYE: A CAREER TO CELEBRATE

THE BRASH BRITON HAS BEEN ON A ROLLERCOASTER, BUT IF IT REALLY IS OVER THIS TIME, IT WAS A GOOD RIDE

By **Gareth A Davies**



So it really does look over now for David Haye, who underwent surgery to reconstruct his right shoulder in November. Largely, he succeeded and should be celebrated.

Haye had three aims: 1. Win as many genuine titles as possible; 2. Generate as much money as possible to secure his future financially; and 3. Get out of boxing in his prime, aged 30, and in perfect physical and mental health.

He won the European cruiserweight title and defended it three times, defeating two unbeaten contenders in the process.

In France, he took the RING, WBC and WBA cruiserweight titles from Jean-Marc Mormeck, the consensus No. 1 200-pound fighter in the world in 2007. He later added the WBO 200-pound title to the collection with a win over Enzo Maccarinelli, unifying the division in the process.

He then moved up to heavyweight and took the WBA heavyweight title from Nikolay Valuev and twice successfully defended it, against John Ruiz and Audley Harrison.

He achieved goals Nos. 1 and 2. As for No. 3, he is beyond 30 (33) and his physical health isn't perfect, but he is generally fine.

I've covered Haye's career from small hall shows to his poor showing against Wladimir Klitschko in Hamburg. The issue for him late in his career is that he has been judged by fans who don't follow boxing closely on that performance and the one against Audley Harrison, which was a huge mismatch. Those were the two most watched fights of his career.

Haye has also handled his PR poorly at times. Fans are fickle, though. The opinions on internet forums and social networking sites are often harsh and unsubstantiated.

Haye was a fine and decorated cruiserweight world champion. I have always held the belief that whatever he was to achieve at heavyweight should always be seen as a bonus. Given his size in an era dominated by the super-heavyweight Klitschkos, he is not a natural heavyweight. Still, he also was hoping for a rematch with the younger Klitschko.

"When I retired after losing to Wladimir a year ago, it left a bitter taste in my mouth," he said after he knocked out Dereck Chisora in June 2012 in London,

Reconstructive shoulder surgery could signal the end of David Haye's boxing career.

his most recent fight. "But this time 'round, after fighting in London in front of 30,000 of my fans, it really did put a smile on my face.

"If that's my last fight, it's one I'm very proud and happy of."

That could be the last we see of Haye in the ring. He withdrew from his much-anticipated all-British clash with Tyson Fury and might face permanent retirement after undergoing five hours of surgery and being advised by doctors to hang up his gloves.

Haye will be remembered as a dangerous, fast, concussive puncher. He was always a maverick and largely self-promoted. Few have managed to do it their own way. He did.

A record of 26-2, with 24 knockouts, is clearly a career to celebrate.

"The boxing gods keep hinting that maybe enough is enough and that it's time to finally hang up my gloves," he said.

Good luck to him in his next venture.

Haye's trainer, Adam Booth, will now turn his attention to David Price, who has signed with Sauerland Promotions.

U.K. TOP 10

1. CARL FROCH
2. AMIR KHAN
3. DAVID HAYE
4. KELL BROOK
5. CARL FRAMPTON
6. RICKY BURNS
7. GEORGE GROVES
8. TYSON FURY
9. SCOTT QUIGG
10. DARREN BARKER

Five more (in alphabetical order): Paul Butler, Matthew Macklin, Jamie McDonnell, Martin Murray and Billy Joe Saunders.

THROUGH FIGHTS OF NOV. 24

James DeGale is on the cusp of his first world title shot after beating Dyah Davis.

JAMES DEGALE

★ James DeGale moved closer to a super middleweight world title shot with a unanimous decision over the American Dyah Davis, son of Olympic gold medalist Howard Davis, in Kent, England, in November.

DeGale, 27 and maturing, won 118-110 on all three cards to take his career run to 17 wins in 18 fights. George Groves, whom he is certain to meet again, is the only blemish.

DeGale admitted that he was "lazy and switched off a couple of times" against Davis, but the win could earn the 2008 Olympic champion a title eliminator against Mexico's Marco Antonio Periban. The winner could face WBC super middleweight titleholder Sakio Bika.

DeGale, No. 5 in the WBC rankings, told me the week of the fight that he is pushing promoter Mick Hennessy for a world title shot. He also told me about his youth during fight week, explaining how he had been expelled from school. He never went back. "I was expelled from school when I was 14," he said. "I went to Barbara Speake Stage School and learnt dancing – tap, modern, street dancing – but I did used to hide my ballet shoes when those classes came up."

"Naomi Campbell (the supermodel) and Phil Collins (the musician) went there. I did a bit of television as a child on a show with Floella Benjamin. So I didn't finish my schooling. All I remember is boxing. I was mischievous. I did just stupid things in class, acting like a clown."

He was also growing up in an area of London which at the time had the worst gun crime in Europe. Those days are over. Luckily he managed to stay away from the dark corners. I have a feeling with DeGale that when he reaches double the age he left school, next year, a world title will be his.

Ambition burns bright as DeGale remains intent on becoming the first British Olympic gold medalist ever to win a world title. It is one of the enduring negative statistics to blight British boxing.

"I'm in a very good position," said DeGale. "I'm ranked highly by all the governing bodies, and I'm hoping my promoter, Mick Hennessy, gets me a world title fight. I'm ready to fight anyone."

MIKE TYSON

★ Mike Tyson's warts-and-all autobiography, *The Undisputed Truth* – described by one of my colleagues at *The Telegraph* as "the one thing left to sell: his own survival, against all odds" – might face legal action in the U.K. from Frank Warren following the former heavyweight champion's admission that he was "high" when he fought there.

Warren's solicitors are studying the book forensically. Tyson confessed in his autobiography, released in the United States in mid-November, that he spent a significant stretch of his career addicted to cocaine and marijuana and used his "Whizzer" – a fake penis filled with another person's urine – to evade detection.

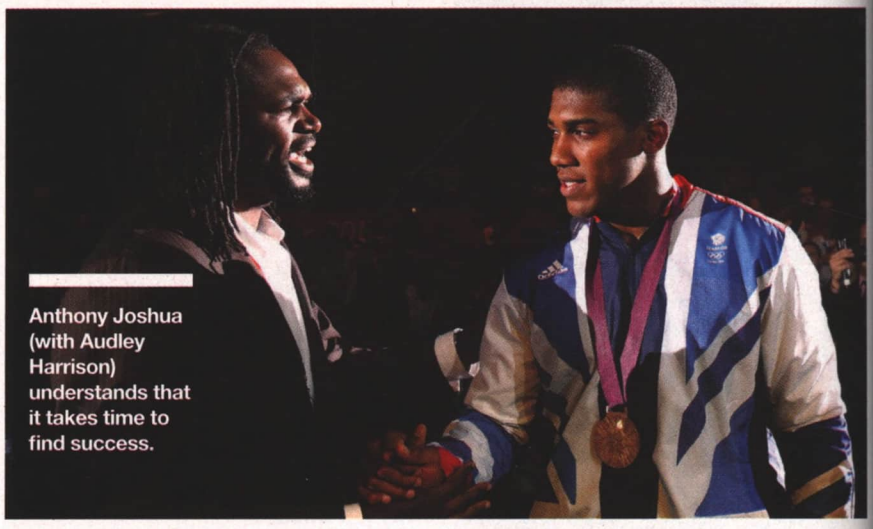
Warren's solicitors may explore the possibility that Tyson was in breach of his contract for the Lou Saverese and Julius Francis fights, which took place in Glasgow and Manchester, respectively. Warren promoted both fights.

"I haven't seen the book yet," Warren told *The Telegraph* when the book came out, "but

once I get a copy of it, our solicitors are looking at that and other things in the book. We will wait and see, but it is obviously very concerning. And if it is the case, we'll be putting that to our lawyers."

Interestingly, Warren plans to float Box Nation, the cable television station devoted to boxing that he set up two years ago, on the Stock Exchange.

Nation Media, the channel's parent company, hopes to raise about 5 million British pounds from an Alternative Investment Market listing to fund expansion overseas, buy the rights to more events and create a high-definition version of the station. The stockbroker Allenby Capital is handling the listing.



Anthony Joshua (with Audley Harrison) understands that it takes time to find success.

ANTHONY JOSHUA

★ Jess Harding, the former challenger to Gary Mason for the British heavyweight title in 1989, believes Anthony Joshua has all the right backing to succeed.

Harding, who now works with promoter Barry Hearn, hails from Finchley Amateur Boxing Club, the same amateur link as Joshua.

"I like his attributes. He's clearly hungry," Harding told me. "He's very, very raw. He needs about three years hard work to get to the top. It depends if he is given the time. You have people chasing you, all the pressure on you and people questioning you, demanding more of you and better fights and tougher fights. Let's look at it logically: Lennox Lewis didn't really look particularly good until he boxed Gary Mason, three or four years into his career."

Harding was a quasi-promoter for Audley Harrison when he won Olympic gold in 2000. Harrison wanted to be his own promoter, and from there his aspirations went awry. Harding believes Harrison had too much on his plate.

"I've always professed that you don't look any good until you've had 20 pro fights. And that when you start to get your head around it, you get your nuances, you get your ability. ... With experience, you know when to put the pressure on, when not to put the pressure on. It takes time. I hope he's allowed time to do that, because if he is, you can see him. He's an athlete. A genuine, bona fide athlete, and it would be great for the sport. We need another Frank Bruno."

Joshua agrees that "a four year cycle" would be perfect. "Not taking silly shots is the most important thing I have to learn," he told me. "I'd like to go and spar with Wladimir Klitschko. It depends on what my coach would say about it. I've heard it's like army boot camp, and I'd like to experience that."

Joshua has also offered his take on the other British heavyweights.

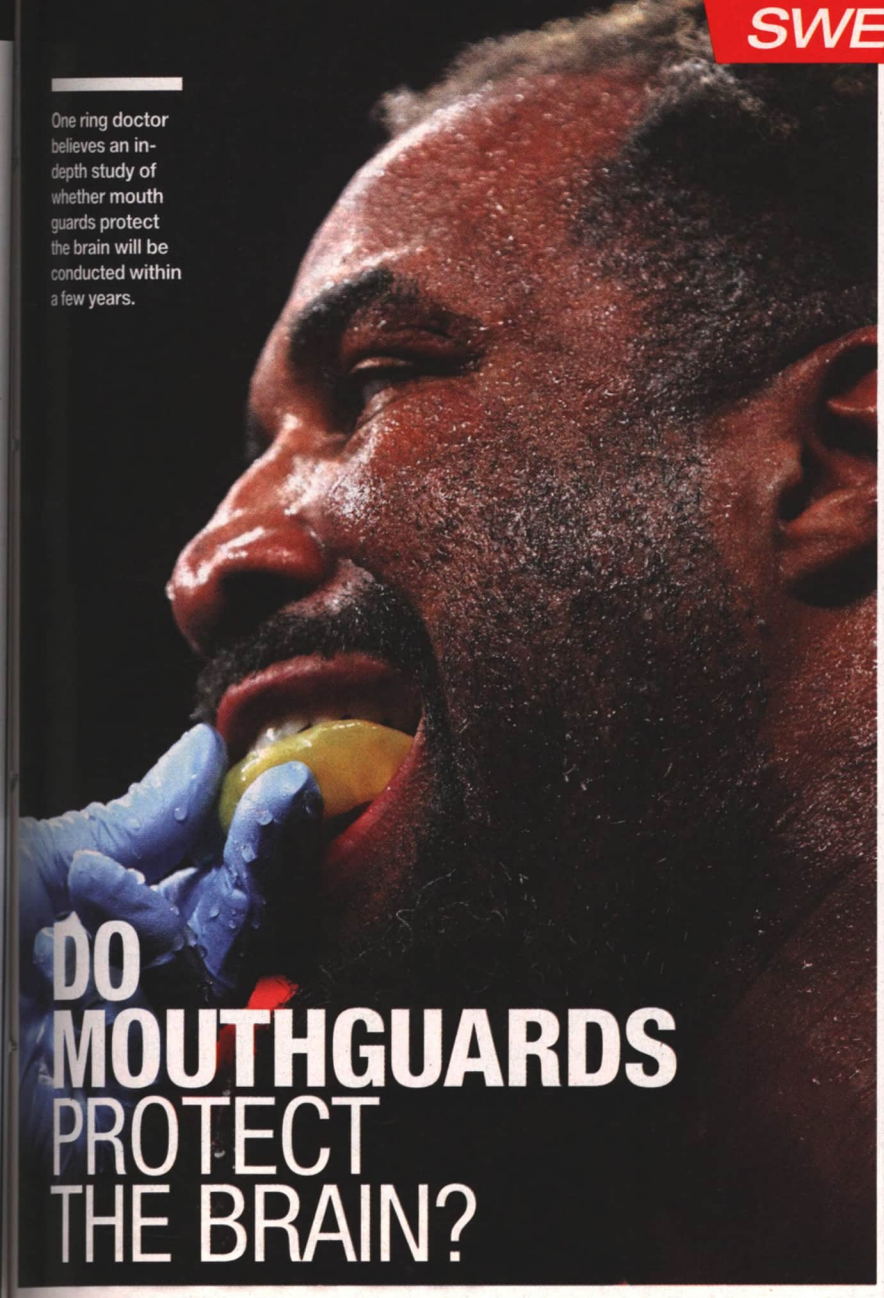
David Haye: "He's a really cool guy, he's really confident with himself, and he's someone you can speak to. I wish him every success with everything he does going forward."

Dereck Chisora: "There are two personalities. He's an intelligent man and also emotional. What he says on camera is different to what I see off camera. It wasn't right what he did [slapping Vitali Klitschko] but who am I to say? I haven't been in that position. Klitschko did well not to slap him back. It showed how confident Vitali is."

Tyson Fury: "The Furys seem like cool people. Tyson's a straight up character."

David Price: "He can come back at the click of a finger. He has got the tools. His picture is up there in Sheffield [at the national amateur training center]. He's a great super heavyweight medalist for Great Britain to look up to. I always wonder if these guys [Audley Harrison and David Price] were on the squad at the same time as me, would I have been able to compete with them. Price can get himself back up there. He is a massive unit and he can bang. He just needs to make a couple of changes mentally and he'll progress. In the next four years, he'll probably find himself in a ring with all bar Haye. Can't wait." RING

Gareth A Davies is Boxing Correspondent for *The Telegraph*, London.



One ring doctor believes an in-depth study of whether mouth guards protect the brain will be conducted within a few years.

DO MOUTHGUARDS PROTECT THE BRAIN?

MAYBE, MAYBE NOT. DATA ARE TOO SCARCE TO MAKE A DETERMINATION, BUT THAT COULD CHANGE.

By **Scott LaFee**

In 1892, a London dentist named Woolf Krause created a "gum shield" to protect local boxers from lip lacerations caused by blows to the mouth and jaw. The shield consisted of strips of gutta-percha, a rubbery sap from the tropical tree of the same name, applied over the teeth and held there by clenching them.

Krause's son, Philip, who was also a dentist (and an amateur boxer), subsequently refined the gum shield's design, using tougher and more durable vella rubber. The junior Krause generally gets credit for creating the first reusable mouthguard.

Over time, mouthguards grew in popularity among boxers, with multiple makers laying claim to their invention and improvement. By the 1930s, they had pretty much become standard equipment among professional pugilists. Some believe the 1927 rematch between Gene Tunney and Jack Dempsey (the "long count" fight) was the last between heavyweights *not* wearing mouthguards.

The protective value of a mouthguard seems obvious. A well-constructed and fitted piece, Las Vegas-based orthodontist Timothy Reardon wrote in a column for SecondsOut.com, not only protects teeth from fracture and avulsion (a fancy way of saying "getting knocked out") but also helps prevent or minimize injury to surrounding soft tissues.

A good mouthguard, asserts Reardon, is also "the only defense that a professional boxer has against injuries to the brain during the course of a bout."

Maybe, maybe not.

The physics – and physical consequences – of a flying fist to the jaw are simple enough. When a blow is delivered, the contained energy is immediately transferred to the recipient's jaw, where tissue and bone absorb what they can and pass along the rest. A concussion occurs when that excess force snaps back the head, causing the brain to suddenly mash against the hard inner surface of the skull, resulting in bruising or tearing of soft neurological tissues.

The damage can be delivered in a single, devastating blow or in repeated, smaller hits. In the short term, concussions cause symptoms like dizziness and temporary loss of memory; in the long-term, repeated concussions can result in permanent, severe neurodegeneration.

In theory, an effective mouthguard absorbs and distributes some of the energy that would otherwise be transferred through the

temporomandibular joint (the jaw's "hinge") and result in shock to the skull or neck vertebrae. Thus the covering helps protect the brain from the worst of blows.

For years, advocates have claimed as much, often asserting that science proves their contentions. In 2001, an Australian neurologist and sports physician named Paul McCrory published a review of that scientific evidence in the *British Journal of Sports Medicine*.

He was not impressed. The claim that mouthguards prevent concussions, he said, appeared to be based entirely upon a pair of studies: one that evaluated injuries occurring during the 1964 Notre Dame football season and the other, published a few years later, that used a cadaver to assess the damaging effects of blows to the chin.

The first study included less than a dozen anecdotal football injuries related to wear. The data was too minimal to be statistically relevant. McCrory did not even attempt to point out the additional confounding factors of trying to compare football players with boxers.

The second study employed mechanistic measurements – linear acceleration rates, intracranial pressure after impact – to deduce likely brain injury, but the fact that the model was, well, dead suggested its findings were at the very least debatable. Indeed, McCrory notes the study authors scrupulously refrained from drawing any conclusions. They just reported their observations.

"The ability of mouthguards to protect against head and spinal injuries in sport falls into the realm of 'neuromythology' rather than hard science," McCrory concluded.

It's been more than a decade since McCrory's review. Is there more and better evidence now?

A panel of 32 experts representing a consortium of athletic groups (the International Olympics Committee, FIFA, etc.) couldn't find it. Earlier this year, the panel published its fourth "Consensus Statement on Concussion in Sport." The experts declared that while protective devices like mouthguards can help prevent some kinds of serious head and facial injuries, there continues to be no good evidence that they prevent concussions. In fact, the panel concluded that wearing a mouthguard might make some athletes more aggressive and reckless, increasing the risk of injury.

Joe Estwanik is a veteran boxing doctor and current president of the Association of Ringside Physicians (ARP). He believes mouthguards protect "from concussion from below" but concedes convincing, empirical proof is scant.

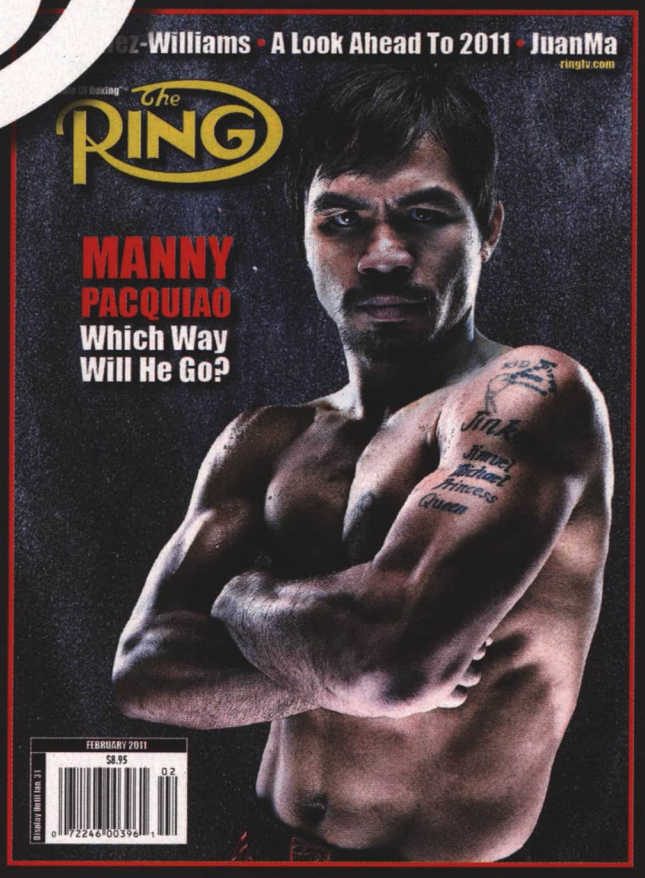
The problem, he says, is that nobody has been motivated enough to try to find it. Suitable models are lacking. Attention has been focused elsewhere. But Estwanik insists things are changing. The risk of concussion in boxing is as great, probably greater, than in any other sport. Scores of boxers suffer concussions each year, diagnosed and undiagnosed. The actual number is unknown.

At a recent ARP conference, Estwanik said concussion risk and the role of mouthguards were a major topic of conversation, if not immediate action.

"I think you're going to see the needed studies done within the next couple of years, perhaps by the military," Estwanik said. "Then the debate won't be whether it's custom mouthguard versus boiled (referring to the practice of softening a guard in hot water and then biting down to mold it), but whether a smart boxer wears a single arch or a double arch, which cover both sets of teeth and provides greater protection to the jaw joint. That will be progress." RING

The Bible of Boxing® since 1922!

The RING®



© HOWARD SCHATZ

SUBSCRIBE AND SAVE AS MUCH AS 70%

Please Check Off The One You Wish To Order:

Save Over 35% Off Newsstand Price!

☐ Six Issues of The Ring for $33.70* 610300

Save Over 50% Off Newsstand Price!

☐ One Year of The Ring for $53.70* 610300

Plus The Ring Digital Edition for Free (A $29.95 value)!

SUPER SAVER—Over 60% Off Newsstand!

☐ Two Years of The Ring for $78.70* 610300

Plus The Ring Digital Edition for Free (A $59.90 value)!

DIGITAL SUBSCRIPTION—Over 70% Off Newsstand!

☐ One Year of The Ring Digital Edition for $29.95

MAIL TO: Sports & Entertainment Publications LLC
P.O. Box 433122, Palm Coast, FL 32164-3122

TELEPHONE: 1-800-846-6438

E-MAIL: thering@emailcustomerservice.com

Please indicate method of payment:

☐ Check or money order (enclosed and payable to Sports & Entertainment Publications LLC)
☐ VISA ☐ MasterCard

Card #_ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _

Expiration Date: ___/___ (MO/YR) _ _ _ (3-DIGIT SECURITY CODE)

Signature:_____

NAME_____

ADDRESS_____APT.____

CITY_____STATE_____ZIP_____

E-MAIL_____
(necessary for digital subscription)

TELEPHONE_____

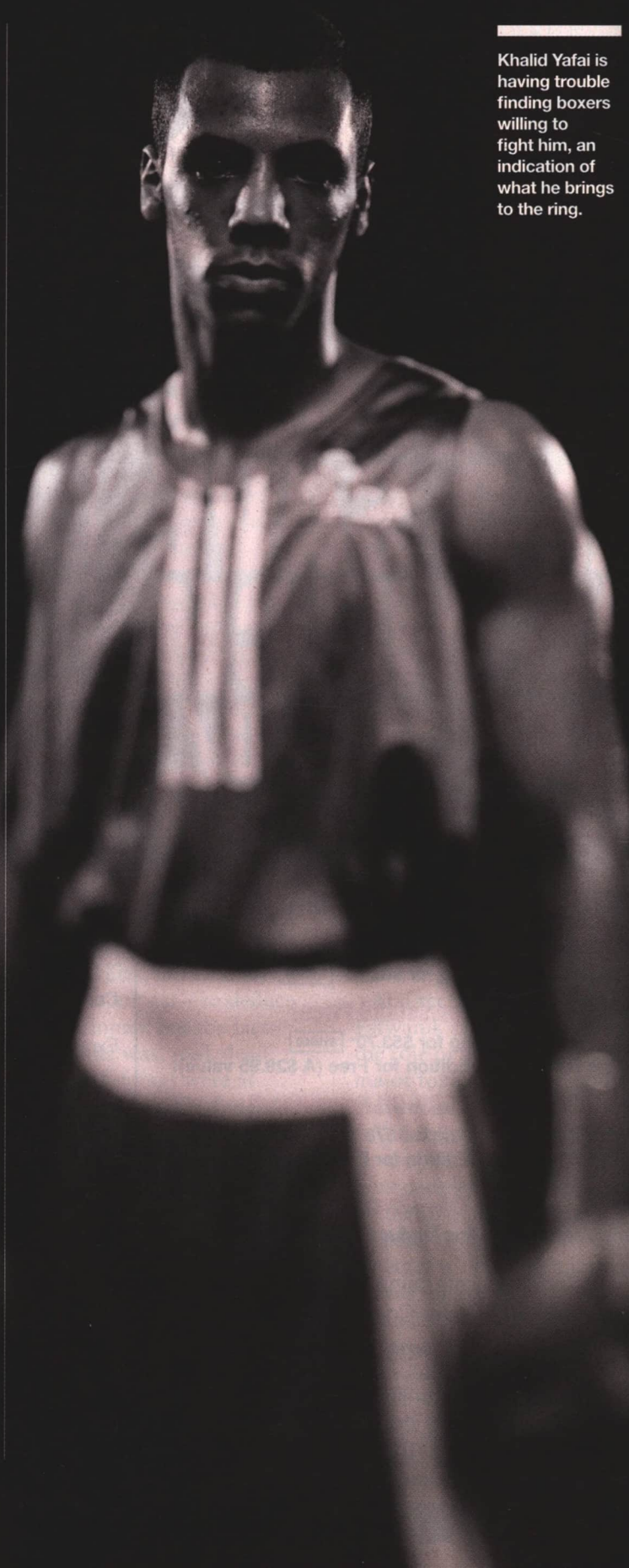
*For Canada and Mexico: $52.50 for 6 issues; $86.70 for one year; $127.10 for two years. All other countries: $81 for 6 issues; $143.70 for one year; $210.60 for two years. International money orders only in U.S. funds only. Airmail shipping only outside the U.S. Please allow up to eight weeks before you receive your first magazine. Offer expires December 31, 2014

KHALID YAFAI

By **Tom Gray**

THE ESSENTIALS

Age: 24
Weight class: Junior bantamweight
Height: 5 feet 4 inches
Stance: Orthodox
Hometown: Birmingham, England
Record: 9-0 (6 knockouts)
Biggest strengths: Technically superb boxer-puncher ★ spiteful body attack ★ bags of international experience.
Biggest question marks: Tends to switch off if not being tested ★ sometimes too reliant on the big punch ★ recent injury woes.



Khalid Yafai is having trouble finding boxers willing to fight him, an indication of what he brings to the ring.

It is clear that British star Khalid (Kal) Yafai has a sense of himself even in the embryonic stages of his professional journey, as his bold swagger in and out of the ring would suggest. One is quick to recognize why this rapid-fire junior bantamweight is being touted by Matchroom Promotions as something very special.

As a 19-year-old, Yafai represented Great Britain in the 2008 Olympics but, four years later, he was bitterly disappointed not to make the team for the London Games. Despite the setback, his voyage into the pro ranks was eagerly anticipated.

"I knew Kal when he was part of Team G.B., and he was very likeable," said Eddie Hearn, Matchroom's managing director. "He was cocky but very talented, and his amateur pedigree made me confident that he would get to where he needed to be very quickly."

Yafai entered the paid ranks in July 2012 and is unbeaten in nine fights, with six knockouts. His impressive blend of speed and power, coupled with vast international experience, has led to virtuoso performances over reluctant

opponents. That has made it difficult on matchmakers.

"It's almost impossible to secure opponents," said Hearn. "There are fighters who will take Kal on for domestic titles, because that involves decent money, but there is zero interest in six-rounders. In his most recent fight, he was lined up to meet a Spanish kid who had one look at Kal the day before and pulled out."

When opponents have been found, Yafai has impressed. But he did encounter serious adversity during a March bout against Michael Ramabeletsa: He tore his left biceps badly in the first round. He managed to win comfortably on points, but the injury was initially thought to be career threatening.

"I kept cool during a disaster. To have an injury like that and keep calm showed just how professional I can be, even at this early stage," Yafai said.

Surgery was successful and, following a seven-month layoff, the popular Brit returned in October with a six-round decision victory over late replacement Santiago Bustos.

"It felt great being back," Yafai said. "I just took my time, got my jab working and things fell into place. He did manage to land a big shot in the last round but, as my trainer says, if you dip your toe in water, you're gonna get wet.

"Things are coming together nicely. We just wanted to fight, lose some ring rust, and now we're ready to get back to full throttle. I just enjoyed wearing those little gloves again, and it's always fun to make my entrance to my own music and get the job done."

Many critics feel that the super confident Yafai is more suited to the professional game because he has bursting power in both hands, but those who mentor him are keen for the former Olympian to rely on finesse and economy.

"The speed and power are natural attributes," co-trainer Peter Sims said. "Kal has worked so hard on perfecting the basics, but he does have the tendency to get a bit wild at times, because his punching power can end fights dramatically.

"We want him to take his time, relax in the ring, and pick his shots. He needs to work on his patience, but that will come with time."

The immediate goal is for Yafai to secure a meaningful assignment as soon as possible. He is desperate to make up for lost time.

"Kal loves the professional game because he knows what he wants," said Hearn. "Sure he was motivated to win medals in the amateurs, but now it's about winning titles and earning money. That is what Kal is about, and he's very hungry for those things."

Professional boxing is a dangerous business. One cannot blame a fighter for wanting to be financially compensated for the risks he takes. Yafai is not unique in that regard, but he is a diligent athlete who is willing to dedicate himself when it matters most.

"Kal enjoys the hard work and lives the life," said Sims. "He is always first in the gym and the last to leave. He lives well, eats well, doesn't drink and conducts himself like a true professional."

3 MORE TO WATCH

CALLUM JOHNSON, LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHT (6-0, 3 KOS)

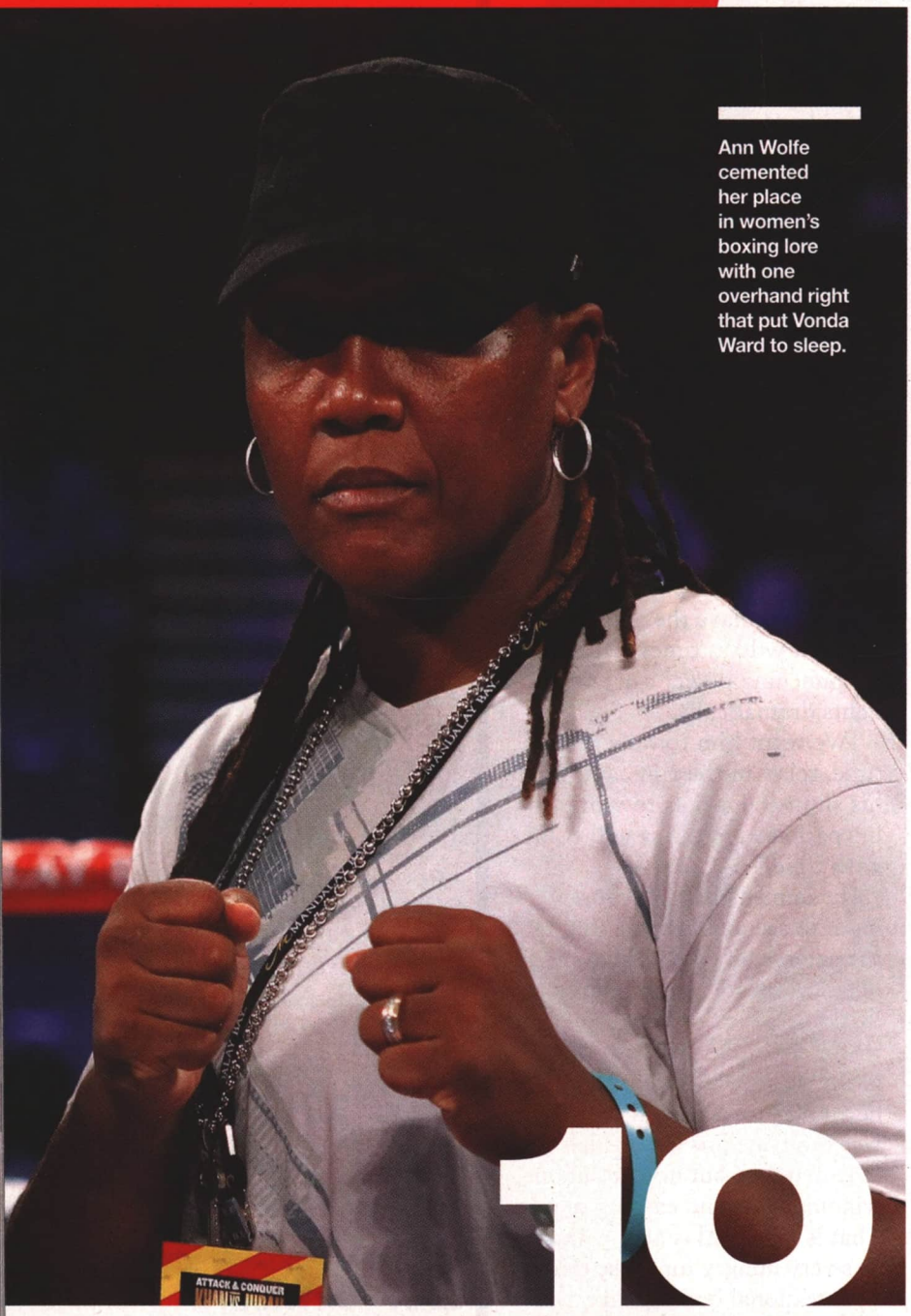
Johnson, from Lincolnshire county in England, is a powerful and compact 175-pounder with quick hands. The 28-year-old, known as "The One," is a former Commonwealth gold medalist. He is guided by acclaimed Manchester coach Joe Gallagher. Only serious issue is inactivity.

FRANK BUGLIONI, SUPER MIDDLEWEIGHT (10-0, 7 KOS)

Buglioni is one of the biggest punchers in British boxing today. During the Londoner's days in the amateur ranks, he was notorious for chasing the knockout and, to the delight of the fans, absolutely nothing has changed. He is handled by Queensberry Promotions.

HAROON KHAN, JUNIOR BANTAMWEIGHT (2-0, 1 KO)

You guessed it, Haroon Khan is the younger brother of former world titleholder Amir. Baby brother captured Commonwealth bronze in 2010 but was prevented from representing Pakistan in the London Olympics because he had fought for England as a junior. Trained by Oliver Harrison, he is adapting well to the pro ranks.



Ann Wolfe cemented her place in women's boxing lore with one overhand right that put Vonda Ward to sleep.

10 GREATEST KO'S EVER

THE WOMEN HAVE DELIVERED THEIR SHARE OF HELLACIOUS STOPPAGES. HERE ARE THE 10 MOST SPECTACULAR.

By **Thomas Gerbasi**

Women's boxing has produced many great fighters over the years, but this side of the sport isn't known for spectacular knockouts, which we believe makes this list particularly compelling.

Here are the 10 greatest knockouts in women's boxing history.

10 Christy Martin KO 1 Bethany Payne

Nov. 9, 1996

On the night Evander Holyfield upset Mike Tyson, the undercard saw women's boxing pioneer Christy Martin make short work of an overmatched Bethany Payne. And while Payne had no business being in the ring with "The Coal Miner's Daughter," Martin was at her fearsome best, delivering a vicious left-right that literally knocked her foe out on her feet. That prompted referee Kenny Bayless to stop the fight.

9 Ava Knight KO 2 Arely Mucino

Oct. 29, 2011

Ava Knight, who was on THE RING's pound-for-pound list, traveled all the way to Mexico to pin the first loss on the record of home-country favorite Arely Mucino. Knight unloaded a combination to the body before going upstairs with a left hook that put Mucino on the deck with an eerie, wide-eyed look on her face as the bout was halted.

8 Lucia Rijker KO 5 Marcela Eliana Acuna

Sept. 25, 1998

How good was Lucia Rijker? Just look at Marcela Eliana Acuna's pound-for-pound resume since this 1998 bout, which saw Rijker break down the Argentina native with thudding hook after

thudding hook. A left to the body ended this masterpiece in the fifth round.

7 **Jelena Mrdjenovich KO 6 Franchesca Alcanter**
Nov. 18, 2005
Arguably the sport's premier knockout artist, Canadian Jelena Mrdjenovich stopped Franchesca Alcanter in their two championship bouts. In the first, a vicious left hook from Mrdjenovich nearly spun Alcanter 360 degrees.

6 **Alejandra Marina Oliveras KO 8 Jackie Nava**
May 20, 2006
Already down twice early in their 122-pound title fight, Jackie Nava, of Mexico, battled back against Argentina's Alejandra Marina Oliveras. But in the eighth round, Nava walked into a left hook that planted her on her face, prompting an immediate stoppage.

5 **Ijeoma Egbunine KO 2 Valerie Mahfood**
Feb. 18, 2006
If Valerie Mahfood was known for one thing in her career, it was her iron chin. Ijeoma Egbunine of Nigeria proved Mahfood was human, though, using a straight right followed by a left hook to drop Mahfood to her knees in a truly shocking finish.

4 **Jelena Mrdjenovich KO 9 Olivia Gerula**
Dec. 9, 2011
After losing a 2009 bout to fellow Canadian Olivia Gerula, Jelena Mrdjenovich had payback on her mind in their 2011 rematch. She got it. And then some. One of the scariest knockouts on this list, Gerula got caught with a crushing left hook and dropped face first to the mat as if she were shot. A count wasn't necessary.

3 **Bridgett Riley KO 9 Aicha Lahsen**
June 26, 1998
Not only one of the top knockouts of all time, this was also one of the best female fights ever. Dropped and hurt in the first round, Bridgett "Babydoll" Riley roared back and finished matters in the ninth with a looping left hook that sent Aicha Lahsen down and out, thrilling fans watching on ESPN.

2 **Anne Sophie Mathis KO 7 Holly Holm**
Dec. 2, 2011
Riding a 24-fight streak blemished only by a draw, pound-for-pound queen Holly Holm seemed to be unbeatable when she faced off with France's Anne Sophie Mathis in Albuquerque. But Mathis took the fight to Holm from the opening bell, and in the seventh she lowered the boom with two right hands that dropped the battered Holm and ended the fight.

1 **Ann Wolfe KO 1 Vonda Ward**
May 8, 2004
Poor Vonda Ward. Despite putting together a 23-1 record over the course of her career, the 6-foot-6 former college basketball star will always be remembered for her starring role in Ann Wolfe's highlight reel. An overhand right crashed on Ward's chin like a hand grenade, instantly knocking her out after just 68 seconds. The win added to Wolfe's legend, making it even more disappointing that she never had the opportunity to exchange punches with Laila Ali. RING

POUND FOR POUND

1. CECILIA BRAEKHUS, Norway
23-0 (7 KOs)
Welterweight

2. ANNE SOPHIE MATHIS, France
27-3 (23 KOs)
Junior middleweight

3. JELENA MRDJENOVICH, Canada
30-9-1 (15 KOS)
Featherweight

4. AVA KNIGHT, U.S.
12-2-3 (5 KOs)
Flyweight

5. YESICA YOLANDA BOPP, Argentina
25-1 (11 KOs),
Junior flyweight

6. ERICA ANABELLA FARIAS, Argentina
18-0 (9 KOs)
Lightweight

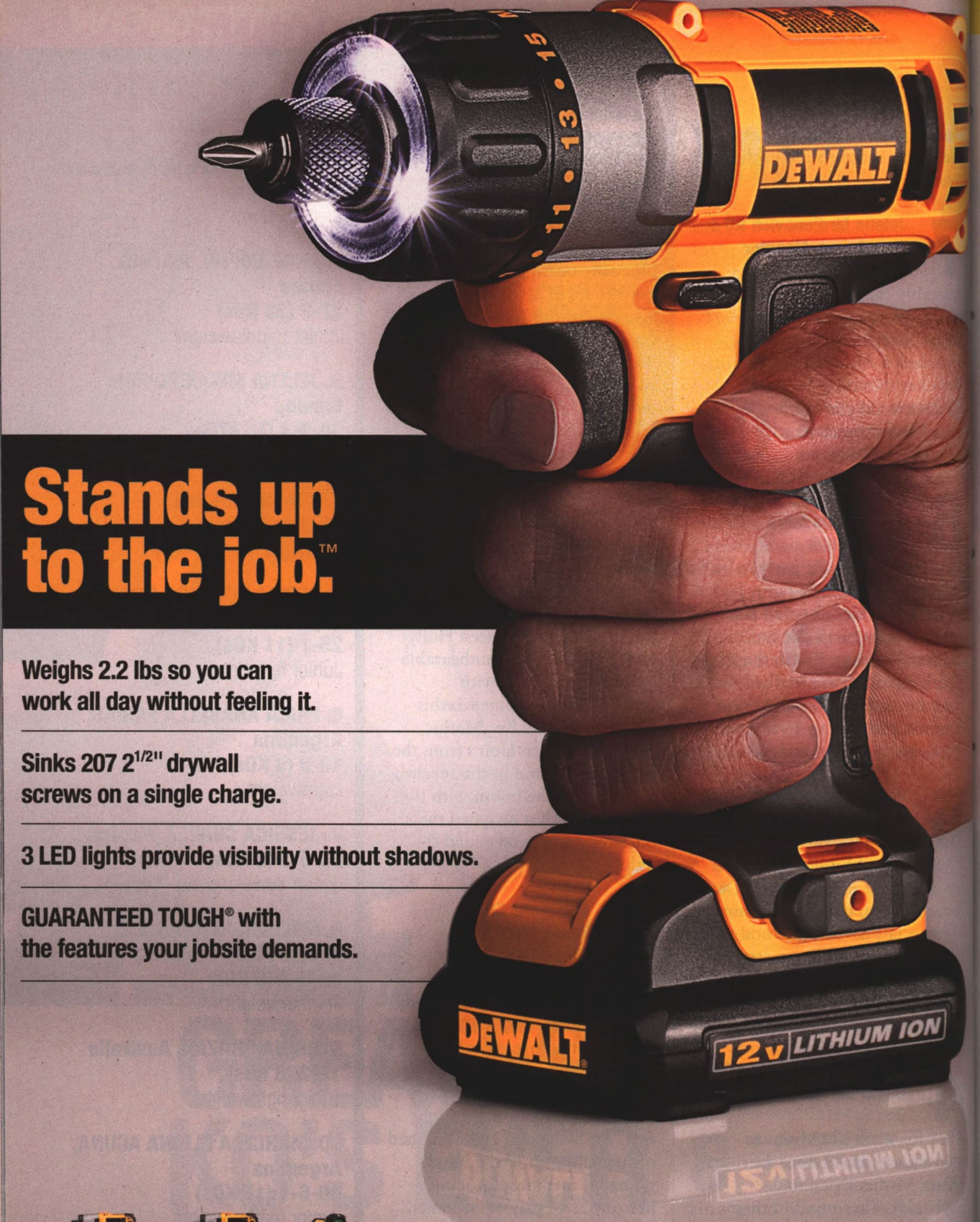
7. JESSICA CHAVEZ, Mexico
19-3-3 (4 KOs)
Junior flyweight

8. MELISSA HERNANDEZ, Puerto Rico
18-5-3 (6 KOs)
Featherweight

9. DIANA PRAZAK, Australia
12-2 (8 KOs)
Junior lightweight

10. MARCELA ELIANA ACUNA, Argentina
40-6-1 (17 KOs)
Junior featherweight

Through fights of Nov. 24.
Note: Layla McCarter was removed because of inactivity. She has not fought since Sept. 30, 2012.



Stands up to the job.™

Weighs 2.2 lbs so you can work all day without feeling it.

Sinks 207 2$^{1/2}$" drywall screws on a single charge.

3 LED lights provide visibility without shadows.

GUARANTEED TOUGH® with the features your jobsite demands.

The New 12V MAX* Lithium Ion System

DEWALT

visit www.dewalt.com/12VM

*Maximum initial battery pack voltage (measured without a workload) is 12 volts. Measured under a workload, nominal voltage is 10.8.

Copyright © 2010 DEWALT. The following are examples of trademarks for one or more DEWALT Power Tools and Accessories: The yellow and black color scheme; the "D" – shaped air intake grill; the array of pyramids on the handgrip; the box configuration; and the array of lozenge-shaped humps on the surface of the tool.

That Bernard Hopkins (left) beat Karo Murat was no surprise. The fact he did it in an entertaining way was.

BERNARD HOPKINS
UD 12 **KARO MURAT**
Date: Oct. 26
Site: Boardwalk Hall, Atlantic City, N.J.
Division: Light heavyweight
Weights: Hopkins 172.5 pounds; Murat 174
Ring rating (going into the fight): Hopkins No. 1; Murat No. 6
Network: Showtime

★ A few days before Halloween, Bernard Hopkins stepped through the ropes wearing a mask. It was lime-green ugly, ugly enough to scare a real alien.

"Aliens don't have years, months, days or minutes," Hopkins said.

Don't have much in the way of challengers to his reign as boxing's No. 1 senior citizen, either.

There's no costume that disguises or emphasizes his long career. Maybe the infinity sign would do it. It's more appropriate than the X he flashed in pre-Alien days, when he called himself The Executioner. Let's just call him amazing.

Nearly three months before his 49th birthday, Hopkins (54-6-2, 32 KOs) continued to look as if he found the fountain of youth that eluded Ponce de Leon with a unanimous decision that made Karo Murat, 30, look old.

It was entertaining because Hopkins suddenly decided there's more to boxing than conditioning and skill. Showmanship is as fundamental as a jab. Hopkins put it all together with another performance in boxing's longest-running act.

In defending a 175-pound title he took from Tavoris Cloud in March, Hopkins threw more punches than the younger Murat, 565-486. He landed more, 247-140, and at a higher rate, 44 percent to 30 percent. In the seventh round, he hurt Murat (25-2-1, 15 KOs) with a combo followed by a body shot. In the eighth, he bloodied Murat over the left eye with lefts. And just to make sure there were some laughs en route to a 119-108, 119-108, 117-110 decision, Hopkins turned Murat around in the fifth and kissed him, first on the neck and then on the head. No word on whether the kisses were included in the punch count.

Only a knockout eluded Hopkins, who hasn't enjoyed a stoppage since a 2004 victory over Oscar De La Hoya. Nine years without a stoppage is a long time, but not nearly as long as Hopkins' career, which started in 1988.

The immediate question: Against whom will it continue? Hopkins mentioned welterweight and pound-for-pound king Floyd Mayweather Jr. No word from Mayweather on that one. Don't expect one.

More realistic possibilities include feared Adonis Stevenson, Sergey Kovalev, Lucian Bute and a rematch with Jean Pascal. Then there's a potential biggie against RING super middleweight champion Andre Ward, who re-asserted his claim on a spot among the pound-for-pound's Top 5 with a victory over Edwin Rodriguez. But television affiliations stand in the way. Stevenson, Kovalev, Bute and Ward are tied to HBO. Hopkins is a Showtime fighter.

"Showtime has the best light heavyweight in the world, but I'm game to fight anybody," Hopkins

told ringside reporters. "Fans need to protest."

For one night, at least, they got to cheer.

— Norm Frauenheim

ANDRE WARD UD 12 EDWIN RODRIGUEZ

Date: Nov. 16
Site: Citizens Business Bank Arena, Ontario, Calif.
Division: Super middleweight
Weights: Ward 167.8 pounds; Rodriguez 170
Ring rating (going into the fight): Ward Champion; Rodriguez No. 7
Network: HBO

★ It was another clinic from a fighter whose textbook ability had not been seen for more than a year. The result was no surprise. Andre Ward is expected to be flawless and he was in a decision more one-sided than even the overwhelming advantage on the cards over Edwin Rodriquez, who didn't have a chance and never acted as if he thought he had one.

This was only about Ward and where he stood in the resumption of his career. A lot was made about how he would react after 14 months on the shelf after surgery on his right shoulder. At issue was whether he still possessed pound-for-pound credentials convincing enough to keep him at No. 2 behind Floyd Mayweather Jr. Check, and check. The shoulder and credentials appeared to be as healthy as ever throughout a 12-round display of Ward's consummate skill set.

From jabs to body shots, Ward (27-0, 14 KOs) seemed to land everything and then some in scoring a 118-106, 117-107, 116-108 victory. The judges were too kind. Ward unloaded an arsenal the left Rodriguez (24-1, 16 KOs) confused and shut out of any way to retaliate.

"Edwin was not trying to win rounds," said Ward, who boosted his purse to $2 million with $100,000 he collected from Rodriguez for a failure to make weight, 168 pounds. "He was just trying to get lucky."

Again and again, luck has proved to be a fool's tactic against Ward. Yet luck hasn't exactly been kind to him, either. Since winning America's last Olympic gold medal in boxing at the 2004 Athens Games, Ward has remained unbeaten and mostly unappreciated. Thus far, the big money, Mayweather and Pacquiao money, has eluded him.

Perhaps he's been under-promoted. He tried to break away from promoter Dan Goossen, but an arbitrator ruled for Goossen. More problematic might be the lack of a real challenge at 168 pounds. After winning the super middleweight tournament and beating Chad Dawson, Ward has searched for a marketable name that might transform critical acclaim into commercial success. Kelly Pavlik offered him that potential. As soon as an agreement with Pavlik was struck, however, that opportunity was gone. Pavlik retired.

Now he could turn to aging light heavyweight Bernard Hopkins, unreliable Julio Cesar Chavez Jr. and Gennady Golovkin. Hopkins has a legacy, but he might be 50 before Ward gets a shot at him. Chavez might create a Ward following among Mexican fans, boxing's biggest demographic. But at what weight? Sumo? Chavez has a serious name, but a cavalier work ethic. Golovkin is a feared middleweight, but 168 pounds might be eight more than he can go.

"I got no problem fighting anybody, anytime," Ward said. "I'm at this stage of my career

RING super middleweight champ Andre Ward (left) had his way with Edwin Rodriguez in a near-shutout victory.

George Groves (right) was devastated when his fight against Carl Froch was stopped prematurely.

where it's whatever."

Which makes the whoever more important than ever.

— **Norm Frauenheim**

CARL FROCH TKO 9 GEORGE GROVES

Date: Nov. 23
Site: Phones 4U Arena, Manchester, England
Division: Super middleweight
Weights: Carl Froch 167.75 pounds; George Groves 166.8
Ring rating (going into the fight): Froch No. 1; Groves No. 5
Network: Sky Sports, AWE

★ If controversy produces rematches, Carl Froch-George Groves II is a lock.

That's probably not what Froch had in mind for 2014. By all accounts, Froch was thinking more about a rematch with Andre Ward, which might have been a perspective that blinded him to the here and now. He could have been looking ahead instead of at a right hand from Groves that knocked him down in the first round.

It was a wake-up call, early enough for Froch to focus on the immediate and time enough for him to take the fight into later rounds. What happened then, however, is a debate that won't go away for a long time, or at least not until U.K. fans get some resolution in a rematch.

Going into the ninth, Froch (32-2, 23 KOs) was gaining momentum yet still trailed 78-73, 76-75 and 76-75 on the cards when referee Howard Foster suddenly stepped in, put Groves (19-1, 15 KOs) in a headlock and ended it in favor of Froch at 1:32 of the round.

A crowd of about 20,000 roared in disapproval. It booed Groves when he entered the ring, yet cheered him when he left. David Haye and Amir Khan, analysts for Sky Sports, expressed outrage at what they argued was a premature stoppage. Fans and commentators alike thought Groves, of London, had earned the right to fight on despite a Froch right that turned him to one side and left him unsteady. Foster apparently judged that Groves was also defenseless.

No, said Groves, who was left with a nasty bruise under his left eye.

"This fight should never have been stopped," Groves told reporters at ringside. "I was dictating the fight, winning the jab exchanges, and his tank was empty by the ninth. The referee made the wrong decision."

Froch, of Nottingham, had a different take, of course. The morning after the bedlam, Froch told the BBC that Foster "saved" Groves' career.

"Groves turned his back on me and was slumping down to the floor, his arms were collapsed and his head was hanging, and he wasn't defending himself," said Froch, who took the pre-fight trash talk up a few decibels by calling Groves embarrassing, childish and just about everything but dangerous. "So I don't think the referee had any choice. Now if the referee did not jump in, who would be to blame?"

There was agreement only on a rematch, possibly in the spring of 2014.

"I'd love a rematch," Groves said. "It's just a shame that it might come about with me as the challenger. It should happen with me as the champion."

OK, said Froch, who retained the IBF 168-pound title.

"Let's have a rematch and sort it out," he said.

There'll be no stoppage of the controversy if they don't.

— **Norm Frauenheim**

NO. 5 PETER QUILLIN
TKO 10
GABRIEL ROSADO
Oct. 26, Atlantic City, N.J. (Showtime)

★ Peter Quillin kept himself in the middleweight hunt. But it wasn't easy, and it wasn't without controversy. It never is against the tough and hard-luck Gabriel Rosado.

The powerful Quillin (30-0, 22 KOs) scored a second-round knockdown. But Rosado (21-7, 13 KOs) kept coming and began to give Quillin some trouble in the middle rounds, especially the fourth. In the ninth, however, Quillin cut Rosado above the left eye. Forty seconds into the 10th, ringside physician Dr. Blair Bergen ended it in spite of angry complaints from Rosado.

"This is the story of my life," said Rosado, whose chances against Gennady Golovkin came to an abrupt end nine months earlier when that fight was stopped in the seventh because of cuts. "I'm the real Rocky Balboa."

DEONTAY WILDER
KO 4 **NICOLAI FIRTHA**
Oct. 26, Atlantic City, N.J. (Showtime)

★ It's beginning to resemble target practice: Thirty fights, thirty knockouts.

Deontay Wilder's run continued against Nicolai Firtha, who lasted longer than Audley Harrison and Sergei Liakhovich but not by much. Wilder took care of those two within one round. Firtha was gone within five. But who's counting?

Wilder's evident power, which dropped Firtha (21-11, 8 KOs) twice before a right hand ended it at 1:26 of the fourth, has sent a buzz through the heavyweight division. It has also generated inevitable skepticism about the quality of Wilder's opponents. Wilder's 30-for-30 is also creating inevitable talk about Wladimir Klitschko, who moves more and hits harder than any target.

But the next step for Wilder might be a prudent decision to face Tyson Fury or another contender before any talk of Klitschko.

NO. 4 KELL BROOK
KO 4 **VYACHESLAV SENCHENKO**
Oct. 26, Sheffield, England (AWE)

★ The next stop for Kell Brook could be his first opportunity to fight for a major world title.

Brook (31-0, 21 KOs) had little trouble with former welterweight titleholder Vyacheslav Senchenko (34-2, 23 KOs) at Motorpoint Arena, putting the Ukrainian down once in the third and again with a vicious combination that ended the fight 2:57 into the fourth.

Senchenko, whose only loss had been a ninth-round TKO against Paulie Malignaggi, boxed well early in the fight, but the quicker, stronger Brook quickly closed the distance to inflict debilitating damage.

The fight was billed as an IBF title eliminator, meaning Brook is now in line to fight the winner of the Dec. 7 matchup between beltholder Devon Alexander and Shawn Porter for that sanctioning body's 147-pound title.

If Brook, 27, gets his title shot, it will have been a long time coming. He has fought professionally since 2004.

NO. 1 GENNADY GOLOVKIN
TKO 8
NO. 9 CURTIS STEVENS
Nov. 2, New York City (HBO)

★ Gennady Golovkin beat Curtis Stevens, forcing the New Yorker to quit after eight rounds. But forget Stevens. Golovkin's real victory was measured by the size of HBO's audience.

According to Nielsen, 1.41 million tuned in to see Golovkin (28-0, 25 KOs) batter and silence the trash-talking Stevens (25-4, 18 KOs). The beatdown was another example of why Golovkin is the world's most feared middleweight, who now has found some power at the negotiating table with a growing fan base.

"I want to fight Sergio Martinez," Golovkin said of the RING middleweight champ.

The aging Argentine might be more inclined to take on Miguel Cotto. But the numbers are making it harder to say no to Golovkin, who plans to stay busy with a Feb. 1 bout in Monte Carlo.

GIOVANI SEGURA
KO 12
NO. 3 HERNAN MARQUEZ
Nov. 2, Hermosillo, Mexico (UniMas)

★ Winning, losing or somewhere in between, Giovani Segura knows only one way to fight: with vicious intent.

Segura, the former junior flyweight titleholder from Mexico, seemed to be winning handily going into the final round of a brutal battle with one-time flyweight champ Hernan Marquez (36-4, 26 KOs) in Marquez's home region in Sonora. Marquez went down in Rounds 4 and 11.

If Segura had any thoughts of holding back in the final three minutes, though, he didn't follow through. Segura (31-3-1, 27 KOs) and Marquez engaged in a thrilling extended exchange until Segura caught Marquez with a left that put the hometown boy down and out with one second to go in the fight.

And Segura should be rewarded: He is now the mandatory challenger for the belt of WBA/WBO flyweight titleholder Juan Francisco Estrada.

MIKEY GARCIA KO 8 NO. 2 ROCKY MARTINEZ

Nov. 9, Corpus Christi, Texas (HBO)

★ Mikey Garcia demonstrated again that no young boxing star has much – if anything – over him.

Garcia, taking part in his first junior lightweight bout, dismantled tough, experienced Rocky Martinez to take Martinez's WBO 130-pound title in a manner that is becoming his trademark. He patiently and methodically broke down Martinez – starting slowly, finding his range, hurting the Puerto Rican repeatedly in the sixth and seventh rounds and then taking him out in the eighth with what appeared to be a paralyzing punch to the liver.

Another masterpiece for one of the sport's most talented artists.

The only thing Garcia (33-0, 28 KOs) lacks is a substantial resume. Opponents like Orlando Salido and Martinez (27-2-2, 16 KOs) are good. Garcia will have to beat fighters on the next level to become one of the two or three best fighters in the world.

If what we've seen is an indication, that might only be a matter of time.

NONITO DONAIRE KO 9 VIC DARCHINYAN

Nov. 9, Corpus Christi, Texas (HBO)

★ There is nothing fortunate about a knockout. Nonito Donaire earned his victory over Vic Darchinyan on the Mikey Garcia-Rocky Martinez card, stopping his rival in brutal fashion in the ninth round.

That doesn't erase what happened in the previous eight rounds, though. Darchinyan (39-6-1, 28 KOs), the aging fighter Donaire stopped in five rounds in 2007, was winning 78-74 on two cards after eight rounds of a scheduled 10-round featherweight fight.

No one saw that coming. The Filipino-American had been dominating before he was outpointed by Guillermo Rigondeaux in his previous fight, a setback attributed to the Cuban's unusual ability and Donaire's apparent lack of focus.

Donaire (32-2, 21 KOs) was expected by many to steamroll Darchinyan and resurrect his credentials as one of the best fighters in the world. Instead, he looked lost for all but the final moments.

To his credit, Donaire won. He had to rally to do it, though, which might not be a good sign.

NO. 8 DEMETRIUS ANDRADE SD 12 NO. 5 VANES MARTIROSYAN

Nov. 9, Corpus Christi, Texas (HBO)

★ Demetrius Andrade did his job. Judge Javier Alvarez didn't, although his incompetence had no bearing on whose hand was raised.

Andrade (20-0, 13 KOs) used a busy jab to outclass fellow U.S. Olympian Vanes Martirosyan (33-1-1, 21 KOs) and win the vacant WBO junior middleweight title on the Mikey Garcia-Rocky Martinez card, his first major belt.

Andrade also landed many more power punches than Martirosyan did (219-97, according to CompuBox) to win at least eight rounds. Still, Alvarez scored it 115-112 for Martirosyan, whose only significant success was a flash knockdown in the second round. Judges Jesse Reyes (117-110) and Don Griffin (114-113) had the correct winner, although Griffin's score also was suspect.

Andrade left the ring a happy man, though. Only five years after taking part in the Beijing Games, the Rhode Islander had won a world title.

NO. 2 SHINSUKE YAMANAKA KO 9 ALBERTO GUEVARA

Nov. 10, Tokyo

★ Shinsuke Yamanaka plies his trade within view of only the most hardcore boxing fans in the west. Those in Japan know, though. And now Alberto Guevara does, too.

Yamanaka (20-0-2, 15 KOs), a 31-year-old southpaw who holds the WBC bantamweight title, put Guevara (18-2, 6 KOs) down twice in the eighth and once more with a big left in the ninth. The capable Mexican, who had gone the distance with Leo Santa Cruz 11 months earlier, was counted out 25 seconds into the round.

It was Yamanaka's fifth successful defense and 13th knockout in his last 14 fights. And there were few pushovers in the bunch.

His six title-fight opponents: Christian Esquivel (to win the belt), Vic Darchinyan, Tomas Rojas, Malcolm Tunacao, Jose Nieves and now Guevara. That's a gauntlet of some of the best 118-pounders in the world. And only Darchinyan went the distance.

In other words, they don't come much better than Yamanaka.

CHAMPION YOAN PABLO HERNANDEZ KO 10 ALEXANDER ALEKSEEV

Nov. 23, Bamberg, Germany

★ RING cruiserweight champion Yoan Pablo Hernandez picked up where he left off, more or less.

The Cuban-German hadn't fought in 14 months because of a hand injury but he looked reasonably sharp against a capable opponent in Alexander Alekseev, at least until the late rounds.

Hernandez (28-1, 14 KOs) had built a comfortable lead after nine rounds – 87-82 on all three cards – but was battling both Alekseev and fatigue when a big right ended the fight at 1:35 of the 10th.

The victory was Hernandez's second successful defense of the RING 200-pound title, which he won by outpointing Steve Cunningham in February 2012. He has 14 consecutive victories since he was stopped in the third round by Wayne Braithwaite in 2008.

FIGHT RESULTS

THROUGH FIGHTS OF NOV. 24 (CHRONOLOGICAL ORDER)

HEAVYWEIGHTS

Deontay Wilder KO 4 Nicolai Firtha
Alexander Petkovic KO 4 Chupaki Chipindi
Lucas Browne TKO 5 Richard Towers
Mike Perez UD 10 Magomed Abdusalamov
Hughie Fury TKO 4 David Gegeshidze
Erkan Teper KO 1 Martin Rogan
Mark de Mori UD 12 Ivica Perkovic
Alexander Ustinov UD 12 David Tua
Vyacheslav Glazkov UD 10 Garrett Wilson
Alex Leapai UD 10 Denis Boytsov
Andy Ruiz Jr. TKO 3 Tor Hamer

CRUISERWEIGHTS

Felix Cora Jr. KO 11 Laudelino Jose Barros
Dmitry Kudryashov KO 2 Shawn Cox
Jordan Shimmell UD 10 Galen Brown
Olanrewaju Durodola TKO 6 Mitch Williams
Santander Silgado TKO 2 Steve Herelius
Ola Afolabi MD 12 Lukasz Janik
William Bezerra KO 2 Eduardo Rojas
Oleksandr Usyk TKO 5 Felipe Romero
Mirko Larghetti UD 12 Stjepan Vugdelija
Mairis Briedis TKO 5 Lubos Suda
Pawel Kolodziej TKO 7 Prince Anthony Ikeji
Yoan Pablo Hernandez KO 10 Alexander Alekseev

LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHTS

Anatoliy Dudchenko UD 12 Robert Woge
Bernard Hopkins UD 12 Karo Murat
Alejandro Berrio UD 10 Fulgencio Zuniga
Vyacheslav Uzelkov TKO 6 Jaidon Codrington
Yunieski Gonzalez KO 8 Jinner Guerrero
Roberto Bolonti KO 5 Manuel Banquez
Robert Berridge TKO 10 Daniel MacKinnon
Isaac Chilemba UD 8 Michael Gbenga
Dmitry Sukhotsky TKO 5 Eduard Gutknecht

SUPER MIDDLEWEIGHTS

Arthur Abraham UD 12 Giovanni De Carolis
Callum Smith KO 6 Ruben Acosta
Adam Etches TKO 1 Alexandre Mendes
Alexander Brand KO 3 Wilmer Mejia
Maxim Vlasov TKO 6 Artem Redko
Thomas Oosthuizen MD 12 Ezequiel Maderna
Mateo Veron TKO 7 Ricardo Ramallo
Balazs Kelemen UD 10 Attila Baran
James DeGale UD 12 Dyah Davis
Brandon Gonzales UD 10 Jonathan Nelson
Andre Ward UD 12 Edwin Rodriguez
Peter Manfredo Jr. TKO 8 Richard Gingras
Rocky Fielding TKO 1 Luke Blackledge
Carl Froch TKO 9 George Groves

MIDDLEWEIGHTS

Marcos Nader TKO 7 Luis Crespo
Ricardo Flores UD 12 Oscar Esquivel
Peter Quillin TKO 10 Gabriel Rosado
Paul Mendez D 10 Louis Rose
Karim Achour UD 10 Julien Marie Sainte
Gennady Golovkin TKO 8 Curtis Stevens
Andrey Meryasev UD 10 Sergio Jose Sanders
Dennis Hogan UD 10 Nathan Carroll
Maciej Sulecki UD 10 Lukasz Wawrzyczek
Fernando Guerrero UD 10 Raymond Gatica
Alex Theran UD 11 Javier Carrera
Fedor Chudinov UD 10 Jimmy Colas
Patrick Nielsen TKO 5 Jose Pinzon
Nuhu Lawal KO 3 Hassan Saku
Sergio Mora TKO 5 Milton Nunez
Damian Jonak UD 10 Kris Carslaw

JUNIOR MIDDLEWEIGHTS

Jack Culcay UD 12 Guido Nicolas Pitto
David Zegarra TKO 9 Basilio Silva
Brian Rose SD 12 Javier Francisco Maciel
Purnell Gates SD 10 Angel Hernandez
Janer Gonzalez MD 10 Devis Caceres
Michel Soro UD 10 Jean Michel Hamilcaro
Demetrius Andrade SD 12 Vanes Martirosyan
Norberto Gonzalez UD 10 Michael Oliveira
Yuri Foreman KO 1 Javier Gomez
Patrick Teixeira TKO 5 Alejandro Falliga
Sergey Rabchenko UD 12 Bradley Pryce
King Davidson TKO 4 Michael Mahoney
Ronald Cruz KO 3 Hector Munoz
Akinori Watanabe TKO 4 Kyung-Suk Kwak
Luciano Cuello KO 4 Juan Jose Dias

WELTERWEIGHTS

Kell Brook TKO 4 Vyacheslav Senchenko
(F) Victoria Cisneros TKO 3 Paty Ramirez
Dusty Hernandez-Harrison UD 10 Josh Torres
David Avanesyan KO 2 Carlos Herrera
(F) Tori Nelson UD 10 Kali Reis
Sebastian Lujan TKO 2 Carlos Chumbita
Fernando Ferreira da Silva UD 11 Leandro Pinto
Gabriel Bracero UD 10 Dmitriy Salita
Timo Schwarzkopf MD 10 Junior Witter
Randall Bailey DQ 8 Humberto Toledo
Manny Pacquiao UD 12 Brandon Rios

JUNIOR WELTERWEIGHTS

Adones Cabalquinto UD 12 RJ Ano-os
Johnny Garcia TKO 3 Blake Franklin
Zahir Raheem TKO 2 Tim Coleman
Cesar David Inalef UD 10 Martin Antonio Coggi
Fidel Maldonado Jr. TKO 7 Luis Ramos Jr.
Armando Robles UD 10 Alvaro Aguilar
Solomon Bogere SD 12 Osgood Kayuni
John Molina TKO 2 Jorge Pimentel
Edgar Santana KO 1 Michael Clark
Walter Castillo KO 2 Oscar Arenas

LIGHTWEIGHTS

Ismael Barroso KO 4 Winston Campos
Ty Barnett UD 10 Carlos Velasquez
Tommy Coyle TKO 7 John Simpson
Fedor Papazov UD 10 Sergio Escobar
Brett William Smith KO 9 Joey Williams
Miguel Roman TKO 11 Juan Carlos Salgado
Takahiro Ao KO 1 Edgar Alejandro Lomeli
Jorge Linares KO 1 Francisco Contreras
Eduard Troyanovsky KO 2 Michael Odhiambo
Robert Manzanarez TKO 3 Alejandro Barrera
Jairo Lopez KO 1 Oscar Badillo
Abdiel Ramirez TKO 6 Guadalupe Rosales
Roman Andreev TD 7 Ramadhani Shauri
Karl Dargan UD 10 Michael Brooks
Yvan Mendy TKO 8 Sebastien Benito
Anthony Crolla TKO 6 Stephen Foster

JUNIOR LIGHTWEIGHTS

Satoshi Hosono KO 1 Yuta Matsuda
Floriano Pagliara UD 10 Angelo Ardito
Bryan Vasquez TD 5 Rene Gonzalez
Michael Farenas KO 2 Kosol Sor Vorapin
Jose Pedraza KO 3 Alejandro Rodriguez
Padjai Yongyuthgym KO 1 Ricardo Roa
Miguel Berchelt KO 5 Omar Estrella
Alejandro Perez TKO 2 Miguel Zamudio
Mikey Garcia KO 8 Roman Martinez
Daniel Ponce De Leon UD 10 Joksan Hernandez
Troy James TKO 1 Chris Male
Jose Felix Jr. TKO 3 Santos Benavides
(F) Claudia Lopez SD 10 Betiana Vinas
Adrian Estrella KO 3 Jose Maxian
Nery Saguilan SD 12 Sergio Puente
Stephen Smith KO 8 Sergio Manuel Medina

FEATHERWEIGHTS

(F) Lindsay Garbatt MD 10 Jackie Trivilino
Mark Bernaldez TKO 5 Khunkhiri Wor Wisaruth
Josh Warrington TKO 12 Samir Mouneimne
Nicholas Walters TKO 4 Alberto Garza
Nonito Donaire TKO 9 Vic Darchinyan
Gabino Cota TKO 6 Jesus Laguna
Leonilo Miranda TKO 1 Roberto Tamayo
Jorge Arce KO 8 Jose Carmona
Jimmy Paypa KO 6 Jovill Marayan
Evgeny Gradovich TKO 9 Billy Dib

JUNIOR FEATHERWEIGHTS

(F) Alicia Ashley TKO 5 Zenny Sotomayor
(F) Marcela Eliana Acuna UD 10 Halanna Dos Santos
Daniel Rosas UD 10 Juan Alberto Rosas
Rey Vargas UD 10 Yuki Murai
Genesis Servania TKO 2 Rafael Concepcion
Roli Gasca TKO 2 Lande Olin
Jaesung Lee D 12 Akihiko Katagiri
Manuel Avila TKO 2 Jose Angel Cota
Hugo Partida TKO 7 Isaac Torres
Andres Gutierrez UD 12 Ernie Sanchez
Ali Hallab UD 12 Angel Lorente
Qiu Xiao Jun KO 2 Lizandro de Los Santos
Jonathan Arrellano MD 8 Charles Huerta
Chris Avalos KO 3 Rolly Lunas
Scott Quigg TKO 2 Diego Oscar Silva

BANTAMWEIGHTS

Petch Sor Chitpattana TKO 4 Mokhtar Tarighatranah
Tiger Tor Buamas KO 5 Alvin Bais
Diego Santillan TKO 4 Manuel Neculhueque
Tabtimdaeng Na Rachawat TKO 6 Edison Berwela
Ryo Akaho TKO 6 Jecker Buhawe
(F) Irma Garcia MD 10 Magali Rodriguez
(F) Jessica Gonzalez SD 10 Yazmin Rivas
Lee Haskins UD 12 Jason Booth
Shinsuke Yamanaka KO 9 Alberto Guevara
Jonathan Ramos UD 12 Ricardo Roman
Koki Kameda SD 12 Jung-Oh Son
Jamie McDonnell TKO 7 Bernard Inom

JUNIOR BANTAMWEIGHTS

Arthur Villanueva KO 1 Edgar Martinez
Froilan Saludar UD 10 Tawanrung Eausampan
Mark Anthony Geraldo TKO 2 Inthanon Sithchamuang
Oleydong Sithsamerchai UD 12 Giovanni Escaner
Breilor Teran TKO 6 Cesar Canchila
David Sanchez KO 1 Jean Piero Perez
(F) Naoko Fujioka UD 10 Naoko Yamaguchi
Srisaket Sor Rungvisai TKO 9 Hirofumi Mukai

FLYWEIGHTS

Masayuki Kuroda D 5 Hyobu Nakagama
(F) Gabriela Bouvier UD 10 Florencia Canteros
Andrea Sarritzu D 12 Valery Yanchi
Espinos Sabu TKO 7 Frans Damur Palue
Giovani Segura KO 12 Hernan Marquez
Martin Tecuapetla UD 10 Gilberto Parra
Roman Gonzalez TKO 2 Oscar Blanquet
Redouane Asloum TKO 5 Gianpietro Marceddu
Moises Fuentes TKO 7 Omar Salado
Julian Rivera SD 12 Ulises Lara

JUNIOR FLYWEIGHTS

(F) Ibeth Zamora Silva UD 10 Ava Knight
Johnriel Casimero TKO 11 Felipe Salguero
Randy Petalcorin KO 3 Samransak Singmanasak
(F) Jessica Chavez D 10 Arely Mucino
(F) Naoko Shibata UD 10 Alondra Garcia

STRAWWEIGHTS

Ryuji Hara UD 10 Takashi Kunishige
Cris Alfante UD 12 Oliver Gregorio
Wanheng Menayothin W 10 Jack Amisa
Hekkie Budler TKO 4 Hugo Hernan Verchelli
(F atomweight) Momo Koseki UD 10 Nora Cardoza
(F) Anabel Ortiz UD 10 Hye-Soo Park

PREDICTIONS ARE MADE BY RING STAFF MEMBERS MICHAEL ROSENTHAL, DOUG FISCHER AND LEM SATTERFIELD.

DECEMBER

DEC. 31 – Takashi Uchiyama vs. Daiki Kaneko, junior lightweights (for Uchiyama's WBA title), Tokyo

DEC. 31 – Takashi Miura vs. Dante Jardon, junior lightweights (for Miura's WBC title), Tokyo

DEC. 31 – Ryo Miyazaki vs. Fahlan Sakkreerin Jr., strawweights (for Miyazaki's WBA title), Osaka, Japan

DEC. 31 – Kazuto Ioka vs. Felix Alvarado, junior flyweights (for Ioka's WBA title), Osaka, Japan

JANUARY

JEAN PASCAL vs. LUCIAN BUTE

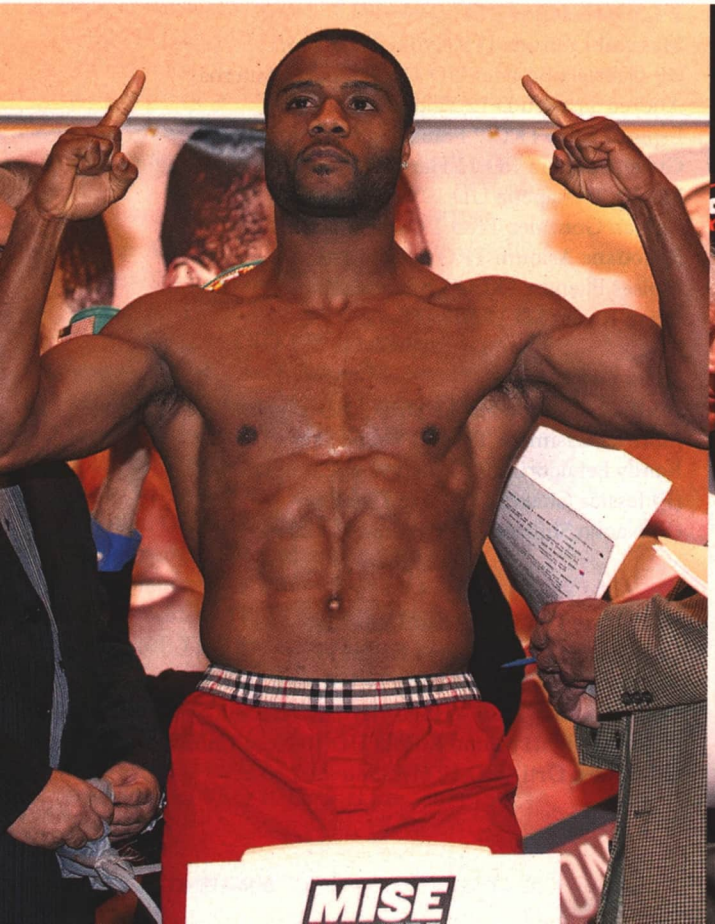
Date: Jan. 18
Location: Bell Centre, Montreal
Division: Light heavyweights
TV: HBO
Watchability rating (up to five stars): ★ ★ ★ ★
Significance: This fight would've been a lot bigger a few years ago, before Pascal (28-2-1, 17 KOS) drew and lost to Bernard Hopkins and Bute (31-1, 24 KOs) was stopped by Carl Froch. Still, it's an attractive matchup between two capable fighters hungry to regain prominence.
Prediction: Rosenthal – Pascal SD; Fischer – Pascal MD; Satterfield – Pascal KO 10.

LAMONT PETERSON vs. DIERRY JEAN

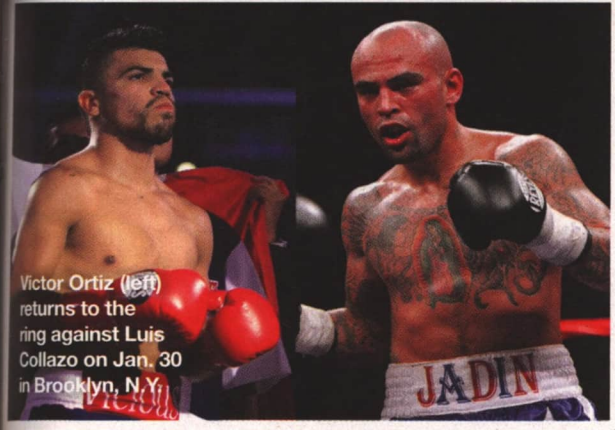
Date: Jan. 25
Location: DC Armory, Washington, D.C.
Division: Junior welterweights (for Peterson's IBF title)
TV: Showtime
Watchability rating (up to five stars): ★ ★ ★
Significance: Peterson (31-2-1, 16 KOs) will defend his title but is in rebuilding mode after he was brutally KO'd by Lucas Matthysse in an over-the-weight bout in May. Jean (25-0, 17 KOs) is unbeaten and talented but is moving up in class to face Peterson, who will be fighting at home.
Prediction: Rosenthal – Peterson UD; Fischer – Peterson UD; Satterfield – Peterson SD.

MARCO HUCK vs. FIRAT ARSLAN II

Date: Jan. 25
Location: Hanns-Martin-Schleyer Halle, Stuttgart, Germany
Division: Cruiserweights (for Huck's WBO title)
TV: None in U.S.
Watchability rating (up to five stars): ★ ★ ★ ★
Significance: Huck (36-2-1, 25 KOs) is 2-0 since losing to Alexander Povetkin and drawing with Ola Afolabi. That includes competitive decisions over Arslan (in November 2012) and in a rematch with Afolabi. Arslan (33-6-2, 21 KOs) has been a contender since 2002.
Prediction: Rosenthal – Huck UD; Fischer – Huck UD; Satterfield – Huck KO 10.



Jean Pascal (left) and Lucian Bute face one another on Jan. 18 in Montreal.



Victor Ortiz (left) returns to the ring against Luis Collazo on Jan. 30 in Brooklyn, N.Y.

VICTOR ORTIZ vs. LUIS COLLAZO

Date: Jan. 30
Location: Brooklyn, N.Y.
Division: Welterweights
TV: Fox Sports 1
Watchability rating (up to five stars): ★★★★
Significance: Ortiz (29-4-2, 22 KOs) will have been out of the ring for 19 months after back-to-back losses to Floyd Mayweather Jr. and Josesito Lopez, as well as an appearance on *Dancing with the Stars*. Collazo (34-5, 17 KOs) also is rebuilding his career after two long layoffs.
Prediction: Rosenthal – Ortiz KO 9; Fischer – Draw; Satterfield – Collazo SD.

JAN. 3 – Aregenis Mendez vs. Rances Barthelemy, junior lightweights (for Mendez's IBF title), Minneapolis (ESPN2/ESPN Deportes)

JAN. 18 – Moruti Mthalane vs. Amnat Ruenroeng, flyweights (for Mthalane's IBF title), Bangkok, Thailand

BACK ISSUES
BUILD YOUR
COLLECTION

ORDER TODAY!

Ringtv.com • ringbackissues@sepublications.com • (215) 643-3087

YouTube

Visit THE RING's
new YouTube channel ...

TheRingDigital

BOXERS ORGANIZING COMMITTEE (BOC)
BOC
FOUNDED 1988

Boxers Organizing Committee (BOC)

Paul Johnson
Executive Director

763-438-2447

johnson4042@aol.com

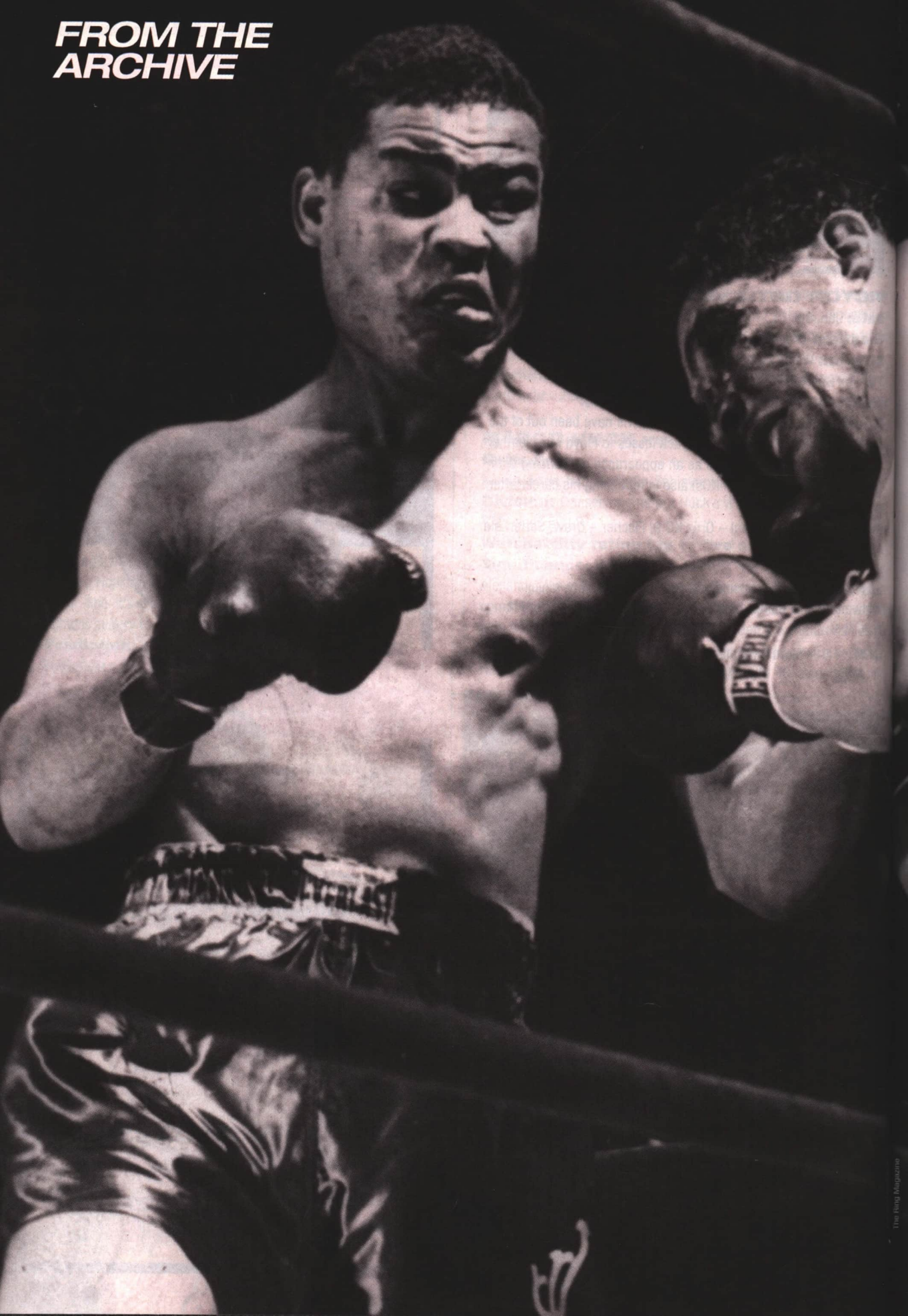
www.boxers.org

**Attention Boxers:
Please contact us to
discuss your rights!**

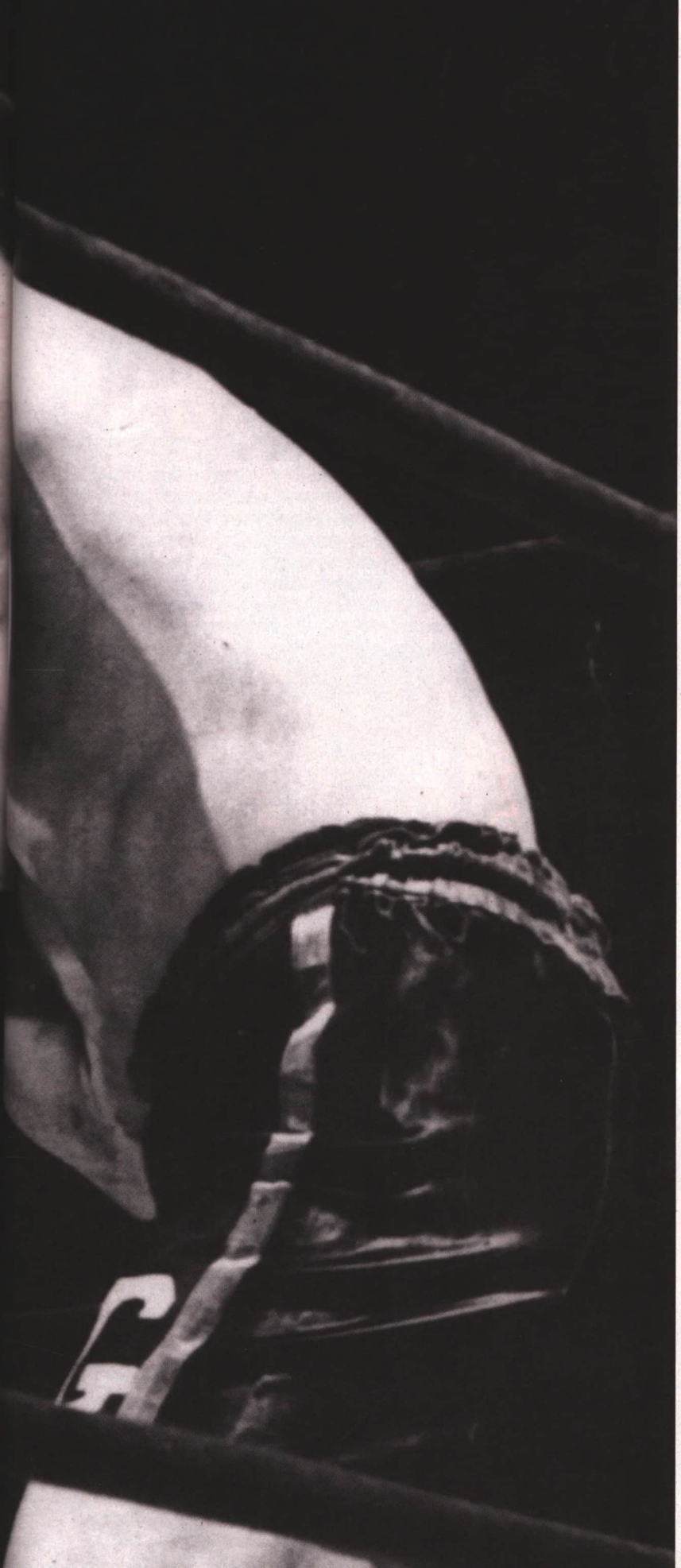
"Boxers must be part of the equation."

— BOC Member José Chegüi Torres

FROM THE ARCHIVE



The Ring Magazine

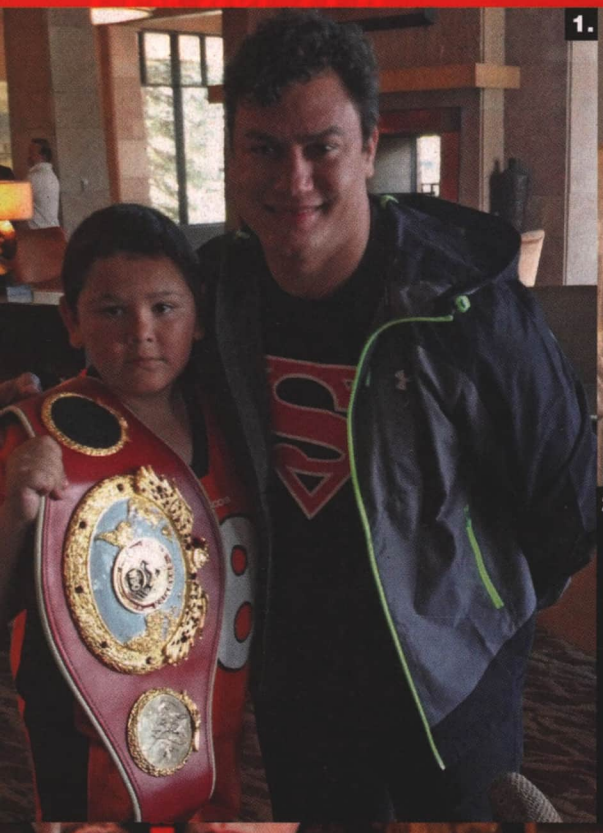


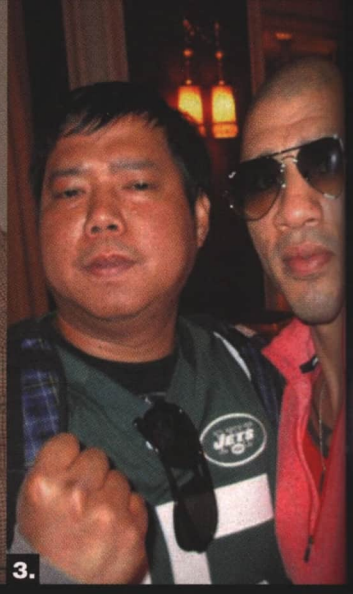
SECOND TIME A CHARM

Joe Louis was always tougher the second time an opponent fought him, as Chilean Arturo Godoy found out on June 20, 1940, at Yankee Stadium. Four months earlier, at Madison Square Garden, Louis had to work hard to earn a split-decision victory over his mauling foe. In the rematch, Louis, obviously inspired, put Godoy down three times en route to an eighth-round knockout. Louis would continue to destroy one opponent after another until, in 1950, Ezzard Charles finally ended the greatest run in heavyweight boxing history. The manager and trainer of Godoy – Al Weill and Charley Goldman, respectively – would go on to work with Rocky Marciano. Godoy's last fight was in 1951.

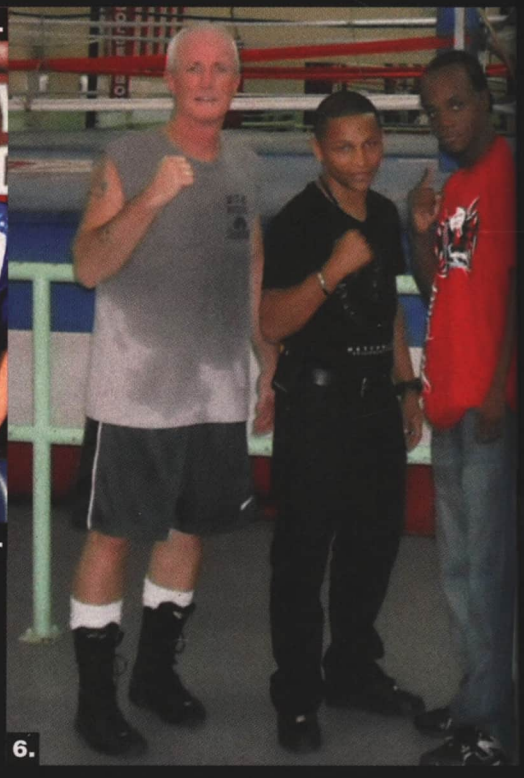
THE RING will select a photo from its vast archive each month to publish in the magazine. For more archive photos, go to our website — RingTV.com — or scan the QR code.

AT THE FIGHTS



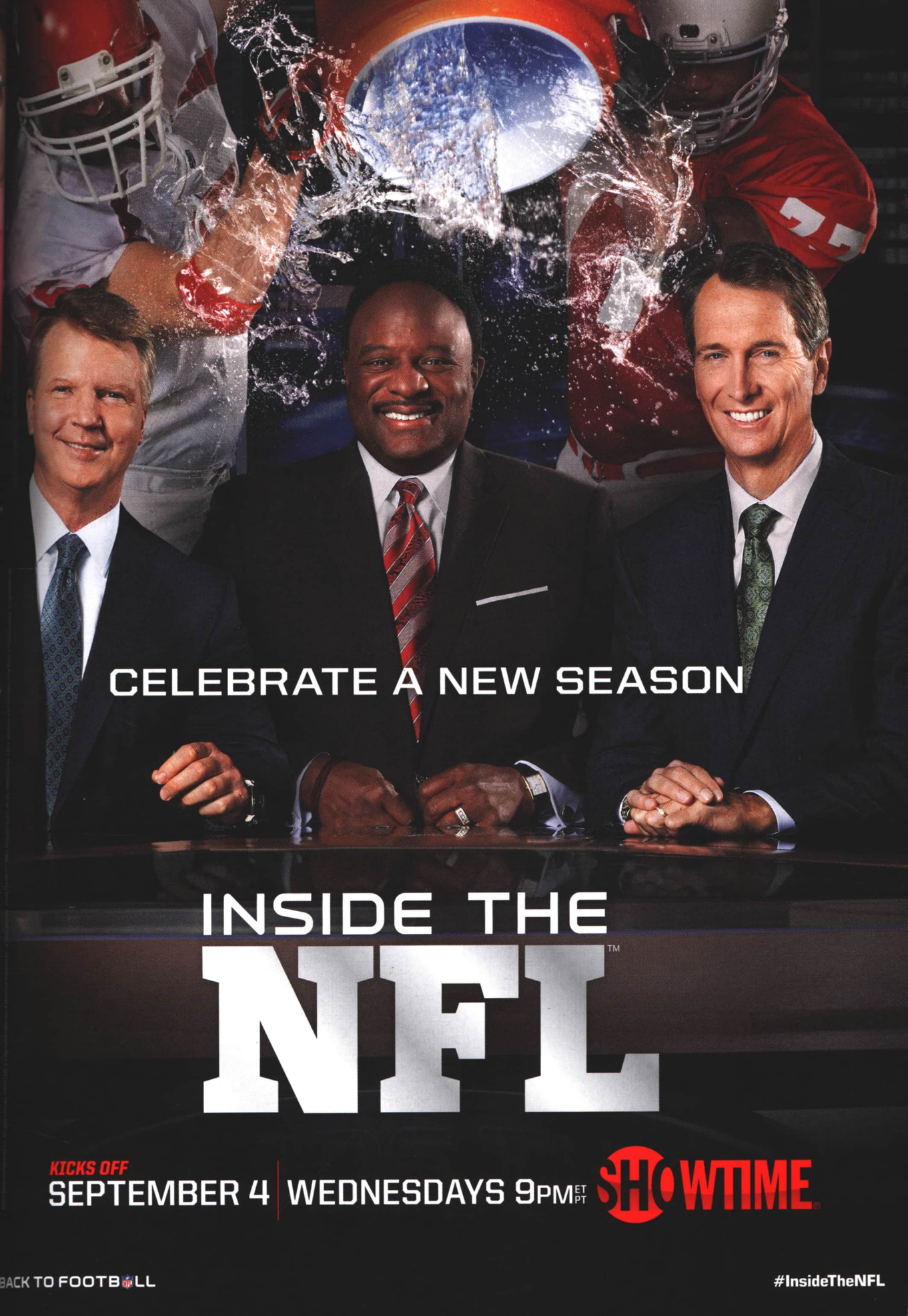


1. Donovin Aldana (left) with former two-division titleholder Acelino Freitas at the Mike Alvarado-Ruslan Provodnikov fight in Denver. 2. Matthew Becher (right) with WBO light heavyweight titleholder Sergey Kovalev after the Gennady Golovkin-Curtis Stevens fight in New York City. 3. Dustin Flores (left) with Miguel Cotto at the Timothy Bradley-Juan Manuel Marquez fight in Las Vegas . 4. Rudy Rodriguez (left) with Lucas Matthysse at an open workout before Matthysse fought Danny Garcia in Las Vegas. 5. Salvador Valentino (right) with Nonito Donaire in Las Vegas. 6. Bill Murphy (left) with Ivan Calderon (center) and Mike Oliver at the Wilfredo Gomez Boxing Gym in Puerto Rico.



WANT TO SEE YOURSELF IN RING MAGAZINE?

Send us your photos from a fight with you posing next to a celebrity, athlete, or other famous person and we will consider it for publication in the magazine. Send photos to **celebrityphotos@sepublications.com.** Make sure to include your name(s), celebrity name(s), the fight attended, and your contact information. See you at the fights!


CELEBRATE A NEW SEASON
INSIDE THE
NFL™
KICKS OFF
SEPTEMBER 4 | WEDNESDAYS 9PM ET PT
SHOWTIME
BACK TO FOOTBALL
#InsideTheNFL

CONCERTS, SPORTS
& THEATER TICKETS
WWW BARRYS TICKETS .COM
(800) 348-8499
ALL MLB, NBA, NFL, NCAA, NASCAR, SUPER BOWL, FINAL FOUR,
ALL STAR GAME & ALL MAJOR SPORTING EVENTS
www.BarrysTickets.com
WWW BARRYS TICKETS .COM
Great Tickets! Great Service! Great Prices!
Call (800) 348-8499 or visit BarrysTickets.com for great deal
on concerts, sports and theater tickets, local & nationwide!